

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

No. 4183.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1907.

PRICE
THREEPENCE.
REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER.

WHEREAS I, CARL EWALD, a Danish Subject of Charlottenlund, in the Kingdom of Denmark, am the Author of 'Two-Legs, and other Stories,' recently published by Messrs. Methuen & Co. of 'The Old Room' and 'Cord's Son,' appearing in the 'Forthnightly Review'; of 'My Little Boy,' to be published shortly in London, and of many other Novels, Stories, Fairy Tales, Fables, Essays, and Sketches, NOW BE IT KNOWN to all men that my Works are protected by virtue of the international compact generally known as the Convention of Berne, and enjoy Copyright in this country, and that no Translations of my Works in English may be published save by arrangement with Mr. Alexander Teixeira de Mattos, of 9, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, S.W., who is my Sole Authorized Translator and Literary Representative in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and in the United States of America.

As witness my hand,

CARL EWALD.

4, Rølighedsgade, Charlottenlund, Denmark,
December 16, 1907.

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MECHANICS AND HEAT	H. O. Jones, M.A.
CHEMISTRY	*Prof. Michael Cressi Potter, M.A.
BOTANY	

The Examiners whose names are marked with an asterisk have served for the full period of five years.

Particulars will be given by the Registrar of the University, University Registry, Old College, Oxford, to whom application must be sent on or before JANUARY 7, 1908.

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LITERATURE

Before and After Waterloo. By Jane H. Adeane and Maud Grenfell. (Fisher Unwin.)

EDWARD STANLEY, the father of Dean Stanley, if we may judge from his bright and entertaining letters published in this volume, possessed an alert mind, marked by inquisitiveness, candour, and geniality. As rector of Alderley he breathed new vigour into parish work, not only there, but also throughout that part of Cheshire, by founding a "Clerical Society" for the interchange of opinions among the clergy. The force of his personality is shown by the fact that he dared to ride alone into a large throng watching a prizefight, and, by steadily gazing around, so discomfited the assemblage that "all went away humbled." When promoted to the see of Norwich in 1838, he marched unattended through a threatening mob of Chartists, turning round every few yards, and cowing his would-be assailants by a "hawk-like look."

Foreign travel was a passion with young Stanley. After graduating as a Wrangler at Cambridge in 1802, he started on a continental tour during the Peace of Amiens. His letters from Rouen, Paris, and Lyons serve to show that even the third year of the Consulate was far from being a time of joy and plenty. Rouen and the country around bore signs of extreme poverty. People seemed afraid of displaying any sign of comfort for fear of exactions on the part of agents of the Government. At the theatre very few persons dared to hiss a wretched play because officers were there to note and expel any disturber; one irrepressible

champion of liberty had to flee forthwith. Both at Rouen and Paris Stanley found the officers remarkable for their slovenly, dirty, swaggering ways. In fact, the general meanness of the men's dress struck him almost as much as the indelicacy of that of the women. Madame Récamier's attire drove him to notes of exclamation, and Paris on the whole disappointed him. The wreckage left by the Revolution had not then disappeared under the pomp of the Empire, and the *régime* was ostentatiously military—the only way in which the French could be governed, as Stanley thought.

Proceeding on his way towards the Mediterranean, the writer came across a Swiss who loathed Bonaparte as the destroyer of Swiss liberty (a view, we may add, not shared by most of his countrymen), and a philosophical Jacobin who dared openly, after dinner, to express his hatred of England and Bonaparte, and his admiration of Robespierre. After crossing Mont Cenis, Stanley found Turin dull and decadent, and Novi desolated by war, but Genoa flourishing and magnificent. Malaga and other towns in the south of Spain, which he next visited, told their tale of slothfulness and decay, the latter tendency having been emphasized by the degrading dependence of Spain on France.

The next correspondence, describing Stanley's tour in France during the peace of 1814, is preceded by a few letters, written to and by Lady Maria Stanley, which describe in lively terms the furore created in London by the visit of the Emperor Alexander, Blücher, and the King of Prussia. Royalty-hunting made society mad. The sight of the white plumes of Alexander's guard sufficed to send a number of well-dressed men and women rushing from one side of Hyde Park to the other; in default of such sights Lord Castlereagh was nearly pulled from his horse by excited well-wishers; and Lord Hill actually had his coat and belt torn off at a review. Other amenities of the time were a transparency, "Hosanna to Jehovah, Britain, and Alexander," and the presentation to the Russian Emperor of a "celestial" sword made of meteoric iron.

More interesting are the references to Madame de Staël, who visited London earlier in the year, and astonished people by her gushing ways. Very entertaining must have been her interview with Byron and Sir Humphry Davy at the house of the latter. She waxed indignant at their onset against the English Constitution. The eloquence was all hers, while the poet lit up the subject with flashes of sardonic humour. But surely neither Byron nor Davy, in their mournings over the decay of liberty, could parry her home-thrust that at least they could say all this openly, even before the servants, and that they needed to feel a touch of despotism to show them their privileges.

Among Stanley's letters describing his sojourn in Paris during the peace of 1814, the best are those relating his experiences at Belleville and Montmartre—the scene

of the fighting before the capitulation of Paris—also a party at Madame de Staël's, and various visits, including one to Malmaison. During the rest of his tour he saw Verdun, Metz, several towns on the Rhine, and Brussels. On his way he met a Trappist monk who had been compelled to turn soldier and fight for Napoleon. No *compagnon de voyage* was more entertaining than this poor wounded man, who spoke reasonably not only about Napoleon, but also about Protestants. More characteristic of the Grande Armée was the officer, met at Cologne, who refused to see any other cause for the disaster of 1812 than the exceptional rigours of the Russian winter. At Amsterdam Stanley found a Mr. Lowe, the minister of a Presbyterian church, who had been there continuously for thirty years, and had not been troubled by the French authorities, after the annexation in 1810, on consideration of his praying every Sunday for the health and prosperity of Napoleon. "What did that signify?" said Lowe. "God Almighty understood very well what I meant, and that I heartily wished his death all the time." Our only query is, Would not such prayers be a matter of course?

Every part of this volume is full of interest, but none more so than the last sixty pages, which contain a short account of an interview of "Fred Douglas" with Napoleon at Elba in January, 1815, wherein the Emperor spoke emphatically about the discontent in Scotland arising from the *Union!* Douglas found that he had no idea that the *Union* with Scotland had taken place more than a century before. Then follow letters describing the field of Waterloo on the first anniversary of the battle. Here the notes are somewhat deficient. Hougoumont was occupied not by "Byng's brigade," but by four companies of the Foot Guards and some companies of Nassauers and Hanoverians. La Haye Sainte was captured, in all probability, not at 4 P.M., but about 6 P.M. The numbers of the Imperial Guard who finally charged Wellington's right centre are given by Stanley as 6,000. They cannot have exceeded 4,600, and were probably little more than 4,000. The Stanleys, we may note, found the crops at Waterloo bad in 1816, and for a curious reason. The trampling down of the crops during the battle caused an immense number of mice to assemble to feed off the grain, and they still infested the ground in 1816.

Nothing is more piquant than Stanley's descriptions of events and persons in Paris in July, 1816. Louis XVIII., the Due de Berri, his duchess, and that gloomy, pathetic figure, the Duchesse d'Angoulême, live again in his phrases. Where the writer undertakes to give historical accounts of things that are wrapped in some mystery (e.g., the events preceding the abdication at Fontainebleau), his narrative should be read with caution; but most of it is instructive, as it undoubtedly is full of charm. There are several sketches of considerable merit, especially those of Verdun, the old

bridge at Paris, and *La Belle Alliance*. On the other hand, some of the caricatures are poor and pointless.

Modern Studies. By Oliver Elton. (Arnold.)

PROF. ELTON's style is not sensuous nor impassioned; neither has it any meretricious adornments. We have nothing to do here with statements made for effect, generalizations without qualification, jest, epigram, and paradox. On the contrary, his style is eminently modest, and his 'Modern Studies'—a book well worth attention—a full book. We have not for a long time read criticism that has such elucidating power, for Prof. Elton trusts to daylight, not flashlight, and for those who will read patiently, everything he touches is made beautifully clear.

In 'Giordano Bruno in England' one gets without exaggeration the very atmosphere. The paper on 'Recent Shakespearian criticism' apportions the proper credit to the different writers, while preserving the admirable balance of a critic who is both a man of letters and a scholar. The essays on Mr. Henry James and on 'Modern Irish Literature' are models of interpretative appreciation.

Prof. Elton is not chary of discriminating blame:—

"The literature of hope, of faith in the known life of man, and of a hard-won optimism has veteran and trained commanders beside whom Tennyson is only like an amateur aristocrat."

"Mr. Kipling thinks that he can carry the kingdom of poetry as his heroes conquer the barbarians, by cunning and violence."

In his handling of Northern subjects "Morris infused a temper towards beauty which belonged to his group, and is not found in the Northern stories at all."

What is the difference between 'The Volsunga Saga' and 'Sigurd the Volsung'? It is that in Morris's 'Sigurd' there is "a temper towards beauty." What is it that makes 'In Memoriam,' for all that in it the subjective religion of the mid-century really finds its true voice, a poem lacking in satisfaction? That it has not sufficient "faith in the known life of man."

These are not sayings rapped out: they are truths felt by the mind that has experienced them. To give longer instances:—

"There is no such enigma at the close of Mr. Henry James's 'Golden Bowl' as at the close of his 'The Wings of the Dove.' We know just what has happened to everybody and how things will remain. Yet here also the close is a profound and muffled discord, and therein resembles life more than it resembles the end of a poetic tragedy.... No one dies; there is none of the relief and clearing of our sympathies which death as handled by a great tragedian affords, and which can only be given by death. The knot is untied only to leave us with another one. This difference of upshot is proper to the difference between poetic drama and fiction, which takes in more of life than the poetic drama, and therefore has more kinds of ending."

And again:—

"At the Renaissance awoke both the movement of poetry and the movement of thought and science. This is what we mean by the word Renaissance. The eighteenth century did not care enough about poetry, and the early nineteenth century did not care enough in England about thought and science. Now, once more, these two master-interests of humanity are quickened in union. Thought and science are active; and though we do not produce much poetry of value, we are trying to understand poetry as we have never tried before. Thus we are in a better mood than ever yet for understanding Shakespeare and his companions. There are definite intellectual impulses now at play which seem to bring the Renaissance back. The wish to see and render beauty, disinterestedly and for its own sake, is alive as in the days of Marlowe. The sense of unexplored mystery in the world of nature and invention is alive also; and the triumph of Copernicus hardly stirs the fancy more than the discovery of the new kinds of ray. As when Montaigne and Bruno wrote, there is a desire to revise the whole of current ethics; and this desire penetrates into art. The Imperial feeling, or the passion to further organize and enlarge our borders, now touches, for good or ill, the national fancy as it has never done since the days of Raleigh."

These things are very quietly said. Indeed, Prof. Elton, with his delicate appreciation of the facts about poetry and poetical movements, shares something of the receptive faculty of the poet.

He is unlike the typical poet in this—that he does not create or stimulate, brings, indeed, too little from himself even to be like the typical good English critic. Hazlitt says a hundred things that are wrong as well as a thousand things that are right, but behind it all you feel his individual energy. He is, if we may be allowed the expression, an active critic; Prof. Elton is a passive one: he does little more than record the impress great literature leaves upon his mind. But then his mind is of such a temper that the most delicate distinctions in his originals leave their just impressions upon it. Without the vigour of poetic originality, he has the beautiful correctness of poetic sensibility. If we say, then, that his critical work is not very great work, we must add that it is very fine work—work that, in the present condition of our civilization, is becoming dangerously rare.

Ancient Britain and the Invasions of Julius Caesar. By T. Rice Holmes. (Oxford, Clarendon Press.)

WHEN the learned author states, in apology for possible shortcomings, that this volume, replete with research, was composed in the moments of leisure allowed him by an exacting profession, we are disposed to smile at the dimensions his book might have assumed, had he been a man commanding all his time. For the vast array of reading it displays shows no sign of hurry or of scamping a great subject. The fact is that busy men know how to use their spare moments in a fashion that no idler can even conceive.

Dr. Holmes, who has already produced

a monumental study of Caesar in Gaul, seems to have started with the intention of giving us a similar study of Caesar in Britain; but when he came to treat of the condition of the ancient Britons whom the Romans found here, he could not resist the temptation to probe the anterior history of England, so that he has made his work an account of the country from the creation of man to the birth of Christ, from Tertiary and Quaternary strata through the Stone Age, the Bronze Age, the Iron Age, down to the tribes that resisted the Roman much in the same way that the Irish Celts resisted the Anglo-Norman conquest. When we read the narrative of Caesar's actual campaigns, we are struck with this parallel on every page: there were always internal feuds, which made some of the chiefs side with the invader, and betray their country; there was the same mobility in their armies, the same large use of ponies, which made the Irish so difficult to subdue. In the matter of war-chariots, indeed, the British show a feature which does not meet us in the Irish wars, and we wonder how, in a country with very rudimentary roads, such a force could be useful. But the Homeric poems have shown us that, in the rugged and stony regions of Greece, fighting from chariots, or with chariots for rapid conveyance, was regarded as the normal thing, and the proper state for princes. The British also had cavalry, but Dr. Holmes thinks the ponies they possessed were too small to carry a full-grown rider rapidly. That is not the impression produced by the Irish parallel, for we know that the native horses were also mere ponies (*garawnes*). The Basuto ponies which our Government declined to buy, and which were of such service to the Boer army in the recent war, are also said to be small.

In Dr. Holmes's chapter on the Bronze Age in Britain, which we consider the finest in the book, we should have liked to find some account of the Standing Stones of Stennes, in Orkney, in the discussion on Stonehenge. He calls the latter unique in England, and so it is; but the other monument comes a good second, and with its adjoining single stones and great beehive tomb (Maise How) should surely suggest some interesting comparisons. We feel that in this case, as well as in the case of Ireland, which can claim the author as a distinguished son, he has not made it his business to travel round and use his eyes, but has rather trusted to the great library he has at his command. In the use of the latter he shows uncommon skill and judgment. Instead of being weighed down with his accumulation of facts and citations, he shows on every page an open, and even a sceptical mind, and the whole result of his labours seems to be that on the main questions discussed in his book there is hardly any certainty to be obtained. This is peculiarly manifest on such controverted points as the pre-Aryan population of Britain. Who or what was this? Is it even certain that there was any? The human remains

found in very old strata make it evident that Britain was inhabited by human beings an immense time ago. Did these creatures last down to history and mingle with their invaders, or did they wholly disappear? Were the Celts that invaded Britain a pure race, or already mixed with non-Aryan elements when they arrived? Such are the problems on which Dr. Holmes has collected the conflicting views of a host of scholars. And sometimes they conflict, not only with each other, but also with themselves. He shows, for example, that Sir John Rhys, in discussing this Pictish problem of the pre-Aryan peoples of Scotland and of Wales, has propounded and withdrawn several conclusions. In the shifting quicksands of the Pictish question it is not wonderful that a man should frequently change his position, and there is great candour in confessing one's errors, and striving to correct them. We do not therefore desire to criticize the Welsh scholar. But when we come to the astronomical theory about Stonehenge set forth by Sir Norman Lockyer, which ought to be deduced according to the laws of exact science, we marvel at the ease with which it is apparently demolished.

We turn back from these controversies to the profoundly interesting picture given by the author of the dress and habits of the British of the Bronze Age, as derived from the relics they have left in tombs and mounds. To quote one of many such passages (which we slightly abridge) :

"Perhaps the most beautiful and characteristic ornaments of the Bronze Age were jet necklaces, which were very common in Scotland and North Britain. They generally consisted of flat plates, adorned with lozenge patterns, and strung together by beads. A similar necklace of amber tablets, strung together with amber beads, formed part of the treasure of a chieftain's wife in Wiltshire. Amber was here very fashionable, and worn either alone, or in combination with jet or with blue or green glass beads. In full dress, wearing one of these necklaces, with gold bracelets on her arms, gold discs on her dress, and pins of bronze, which shone like gold, in her hair, a Wiltshire dame must have looked splendid. And those who could not afford these ornaments were not always obliged to content themselves with perforated boar's teeth or bone beads, for, incredible as it may appear, sham jewellery was in vogue even in the Bronze Age. We have specimens of bronze pins coated with gold leaf."

Dr. Holmes speaks with much good sense of the traces of human sacrifice, and attributes many of them to the widespread belief among savages that what is killed and buried with the great man will keep him company in the next world. He quotes an instance in the nineteenth century of an Ulster farmer's widow killing her husband's horse, in order that he might have it to ride in the next world. We can cite a much more recent case of a parallel superstition, that a man will wear in the next world the clothes in which he has been buried. A Catholic priest, appointed to a cure in the Irish quarter of Glasgow a few years ago,

presently came upon a wake, where he found the dead man, a navvy, lying on his bed in full evening dress, as they would say in Ireland, for the first time in his life. Upon the priest remonstrating at this dressing-up of the dead as improper and wasteful, a woman kneeling beside the bed turned upon him and said indignantly: "And would ye have the decent man runnin' about naked in glory! Nor is the belief extinct now in many parts of Ireland.

parts of Ireland. The author has much to say about the tin trade from Cornwall, and whether Ictis, the port where it centred, was the Isle of Wight, or St. Michael's Mount, or some other spot. He prefers—in the present reviewer's opinion, rightly—the Mount. On the further question how primitive man found out that a mixture of tin—a rare metal—with copper would produce the valuable compound known as bronze, he has but speculations to offer; but the first steps in human civilization, removed from us by thousands of years, are rather an idle quest. So also we suppose, is the question how far man and the domestic animals may have been indigenous in various parts of the world. The horse, for example, which in history was brought from Asia to Europe not so long ago, may well have remained alive in Britain and Ireland, while extinct throughout the rest of Europe. It is assumed all through this book that Britain was peopled by successive invaders. Is it certain that there was no indigenous race here in the Stone Age? Such are the problems which confront us on every page of this most learned and suggestive book.

Queen Mary's Book: Poems and Essays
by Mary, Queen of Scots. Edited by
Mrs. P. Stewart-Mackenzie Arbuthnott
(Bell & Sons.)

THIS beautiful and well-printed book is another testimony to the fascination which Mary, Queen of Scots, still continues to exert three centuries after her death. It is a translation of a collection of poems and essays written at intervals during her life, beginning with her Latin exercises at the age of twelve, and ending with the essay on adversity written in prison. Its best features are the five excellent reproductions of works in her handwriting and an appendix containing the original texts in a generally accurate form. Of its demerits it would be unkind to insist. The author translates 13 cal. Jan. as 13th January, adding: "So the Latin is dated probably by mistake. The French is dated: 20th December." A good general idea of the style may be obtained from the rendering of *sic volo*: "I wish it to be thus! I command it so! and on every consideration, let my will be done" while of the translation of the French single example will likewise suffice. (We modernize slightly Mary's spelling.)

Qui jamais davantage eût contraire le sort !
Si la vie m'est moins utile que la mort,
Et plutôt que changer de mes mals l'aventure,
Chacun change pour moi d'humeur et de nature.

appears a

Was ever known a fate more sad than mine?
Ah! better death for me than life, I ween!
For me there is no sorrow's anodyne:
T'wards me all change their nature and the
mien.

The editor is, in fact, not qualified to do good editorial work.

The interest of the book lies in the reproduction of fo. 81^o of the St. Petersburg 'Hours,' which is occasionally called a Missal. The little set of Latin exercises in the form of letters to her cousin reminds one in a frivolous mood of little Mr. Bouncer's home letters, and more seriously provokes the remembrance that the William Barker who was to come into her life a score of years later, and do no little to help her to her death, had just finished his book on the same subject, of hardly greater merit. The essay on adversity—here printed for the first time—is an incidental proof of Mary's habit of jotting down the heads of what she was going to write about, and thus lends a little support to the authenticity of the second Casket letter, as also does this page of the 'Hours,' which was reproduced in vol. iii. of the *Proceedings* of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland many years ago, but in a form of no use for study. To-day we can almost date the hand-writings. We have a note "escrire au secrétaire pour Douglas," and in a similar hand "xviii octobre aduertir fl." The letter to the Secretary is doubtless that in Labanoff, iii. 369, addressed to Burleigh (not then appointed Lord Treasurer), in favour of Wm. Douglas and her other dismissed followers, on September 9th, 1571, the "warn fl." probably dating from the year before, when Fleming was holding the Castle of Dumbarton in her name. These notes give an approximate date for the fragmentary poem to "un bel ange," of which we have two complete stanzas and portions of another (or, it may be, rejected lines), in the same sort of handwriting. The style of the poem is not appreciably better or worse than the Casket sonnets, and we may hazard a conjecture that they were intended for her promised deliverer, the Duke of Norfolk. The other date, "xxx Mars," could probably be traced.

As in duty bound, Mrs. Arbuthnot adds an excursus on the Casket letters. The whole basis of her conception of Mary's character rests on the realization of her as a Mid-Victorian matron, a kind of female Prince Consort. But any one who knows anything about the Court of Catharine de' Medici can only re-echo the sentiment, "How different from the home life of our own beloved Queen!" Brantôme's praise of Mary would have been no less if she had been a modern Cleopatra, whereas she was only the most charming of women, married to a fool-brute, and, when she looked round for help, finding it with Bothwell alone. Mrs. Arbuthnot claims that the psychological side of the question, Did Mary write Letter II. or no? is a woman's question only. Agreed, if we premise that the woman to judge shall be of that

type—*la grande amoureuse*. Home life does not help much in the solution of such problems. The present reviewer, knowing all Mary's published work—noble, mean, generous, theatrical, devotional, in turn—thinks there is nothing that gives one so true a feeling of the sterling worth of the womanhood in her as the tortured phrases of the second Casket letter. The author of that letter, if it be Mary, has attained the full power of self-revelation; if it be another, then this anonymous hireling, forging letters at a moment's notice, has produced a masterpiece of psychology. Modern ideas and standards of morals are inapplicable to a cultivated Renaissance woman of twenty-five, of Stuart and Guise blood, brought up at the Valois Court, outraged in her love and pride.

For three of the eight letters we have the Latin version of George Buchanan, made probably from the originals. The complete set printed in 1572 added the first half-dozen lines of the French originals; contemporary copies of four of them have been found within the last few years which agree: while hurried official translations of four corrected by Cecil have also been discovered. Two only remain uncorroborated. It is a question of the word of Buchanan and Cecil against the somewhat equivocal disclaimers of Mary. Mr. Lang has shown the possibility of the text being contaminated, but the removal of the whole of the doubtful part would not weaken their evidence. "Tout comprendre, c'est tout pardonner," and from these letters alone do we get any right understanding of the mind of the poor tortured Queen at the turning-point of her life. We hope that a new issue of this book will allow Mrs. Arbuthnot to add to it those parts of the Casket letters which from a woman's point of view may be genuine: we can promise her a large and interested public.

A History of Commerce. By Clive Day. (Longmans & Co.)

THIS volume is one of the many examples recently supplied by the United States of the progress of economic study. The book will be a valued aid to the teacher in secondary schools in tracing the tangled web of the history of the commerce of the world; while the student, and even the professor, may obtain from it illustrations of the rapidity with which great streams of trade may be diverted, by apparently trifling obstacles, from their original course, leaving countries formerly prosperous desolate and bare. Though brief, the description is not a mere epitome. Each chapter ends with a series of questions and subjects suggested for essays. The whole is clearly arranged, with good bibliographies of guides recommended for further study, and there must be many who desire to make more thorough investigations than it was possible for Prof. Day to include in this small, though well-packed volume. He points out that "the academic training of the times seems to lead economists to forget that there has been

a past from which they have much to learn, and to the study of which they can contribute many helpful suggestions; it seems to lead historians to forget that there is a present, whose needs and problems should direct their study of the past."

The volume begins with the history of ancient commerce, a section which, the student will find convenient in tracing the development of the commerce of the mediæval world.

The business of the merchant is to provide the proper distribution of wares at the time when, and the place where they are wanted. In rough and uncivilized times this was barely possible. The difficulties and dangers of the transport of goods were at first enormous hindrances. These had to be overcome before trade, even with neighbouring hamlets and towns, could be carried on with any chance of success. As the Roman power declined, the towns themselves sank into mere villages. Intercommunication became more interrupted; and when the market ceased to exist, the supply of wares—no longer needed—fell away also. Prof. Day has traced the gradual wearing-out of the civilization implanted by the Empire with a wealth of historical knowledge which renders his work highly interesting.

From the hindrances to trade, an arrangement for self-sufficing supply in provincial life became essential. Each village group strove to produce everything that it required, in order to be free from the uncertainty and expense of importing what it needed. But some goods almost always had to be obtained from a distance. For instance, such essentials to ordinary life as salt, iron, and millstones were rarely all found in one centre. These things required some little trading to obtain them; but perhaps even as late as 900 A.D. the slave trade was as large an industry as any other in England, slaves being a class of property which could be transported readily from one place to another. Distant commerce was confined of necessity to the goods which could be easily moved. These were principally luxuries. In some districts the great rivers provided the means of carriage. The towns on the banks of the Thames, the Rhine, the Rhone, and the Danube flourished, though greatly hindered by the decadence of any central authority. All this is brightly explained by Prof. Day, but perhaps what strikes one most in the volume is the different view we obtain of ancient, mediæval, and even modern life in all the countries referred to—when history is confined simply to commerce, and wars appear only as incidental events.

The volume is illustrated throughout with a considerable number of maps, which enable the reader to follow the events described. In these we perceive many countries left blank, or marked as producing copious supplies of goods, according to the trade route which it is desired to illustrate. Thus the fourteenth-century map which is occupied with the commerce of Bruges and Flanders leaves

Italy and France blank spaces; whilst parts of North Africa, Spain, England, and Scandinavia are covered with lists of products which travelled to Flanders through Bruges. This port, entirely closed for many centuries, has recently been reopened for the Northern trade. This portion of the volume is concerned with mediæval times. The later chapters tell us of the rise of modern industry. If we turn on to 1700, we find England, France, Portugal, Holland, and Spain all carrying on active trade in the East, especially on the coast of India. The trading companies established by Englishmen in different parts of the world—the Eastland Company trading with the Baltic, the Russia Company, the Merchant Adventurers, the Levant Company, the Hudson's Bay Company, the East India Company—all assisted in the development of British commerce. The monopolies which these companies enjoyed rendered them unpopular, but they supplied a want. Prof. Day brings his record down to 1900.

Writing as he does from a great university in the United States, he takes a point of view which coincides with that of his own country, but those who are not his fellow-citizens may also read his volume with pleasure and advantage.

HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY.

History of Ancient Civilisation. By Charles Seignobos. (Fisher Unwin.)—This is one of the many modern attempts to boil down a great subject from a large book into a summary, which is supposed to give the general reader all he wants to know about it. The American public seems to have been kept in view by the editor, as sums of money are given in dollars. The original work of M. Seignobos is written in that charming style of which the French are the masters, and so even the abbreviated translation shows considerable vivacity and commendable clearness. But when the editor gets into the more complex parts of his subject, he shows that want of accurate knowledge which makes him frequently misrepresent his author—at all events, misrepresent the facts; and we also find in many cases statements which, if not actually false, are misleading. We will quote some instances to justify this criticism. "In 1821 Champollion experimented with another system. An official had reported that there was at Rosetta an inscription.... Parallel with the hieroglyphs was an inscription in Greek." This implies that the discovery was twenty-three years later than its real date; and the Greek text is not parallel with the others, but under them. The present *locus* of the stone is not mentioned or the history of its discovery.

The opening of the account of the land of Chaldæa shows complete ignorance of the contrasts between the Euphrates and Tigris and their courses. The sentimental sketch of the foundation of a Greek colony is in conflict with the facts related on the next page about the foundation of Cyrene, and this curious narrative in Herodotus is probably an ordinary specimen of the process. The conclusion that Greek States often adopted the abolition of debts and the new partition of lands is just what an ill-equipped student would infer from the constant talk among theorists. We should like to see

a single well-attested example out of ordinary Greek history. The editor ought not to have repeated, from his original, blunders long since exploded by English scholarship, such as the absurd statement that the theatre at Athens (said to be in the city!) held 30,000 spectators (it could not hold 15,000), or that the Athenians executed more than 1,000 "ringleaders" of the Mytilenean revolt, out of a population of 5,000. Again, "not a single example of the masterpieces celebrated among the Greeks has come down to us." The 'Hermes' of Praxiteles is mentioned in a note, but not as contradicting the text. Parchment is called the new paper of Pergamum, invented to replace papyrus. The use of skins for writing material was centuries older. Here are the notions set forth of two famous battles. At Marathon "the Athenians began by turning both flanks [of the Persians], and then engaged the centre." What an account! At Chæronee "the army of the Athenians and Thebans, levied in haste, was not equal to the veterans of Philip." The battle was really fought because the Greeks had been ten months in the field and could not be kept together longer. We find some Gallicisms retained, such as "Spartiate" for Spartan, and "prudent" as the rendering of *être sage*. In Xenophon's 'Economicus' the girl-wife of Ischomachus says she has been taught nothing at home except *σωφρονία*, which means to be chaste. To be prudent is no doubt part of the idea, but misleads the reader as to the real sense.

We have probably cited more than enough to show how difficult it is to avoid faults in an almost impossible task, that of conveying accurate knowledge to the reader who does not take enough trouble to acquire it.

The Court of Philip IV. By Martin Hume. (Evelagh Nash.)—The most vivid picture of social manners, and of Court life in Spain during the reign of Philip IV., is contained in 'Gil Blas.' There is nothing far-fetched in Lesage's account of his hero's introduction to Olivares through Navarro, the clerk of the kitchen to Olivares's uncle, Baltasar de Zúñiga, and in Philip's recognition of the services which Gil Blas had rendered him in the matter of Catalina, "sometimes niece and sometimes granddaughter" to Mencía. Through Félibien and Valdory Lesage had learnt all the gossip of the Court, and he portrays Philip as an idle and dissipated young man, a mere tool in the hands of Olivares, who governed like a despot till the camarilla, headed by Isabel de Bourbon, took advantage of the rebellions in Portugal and Catalonia to undermine his position. Apart from a few anachronisms, there is little that needs altering in Lesage's narrative; but, as the story ends with the downfall of Olivares, it is necessarily incomplete. With the help of Señor Rodríguez Villa's 'La Corte y Monarquía de España en los Años de 1636 y 37' it is possible to fill in the details, and Barrioueu's 'Avisos,' together with the correspondence between Philip and María Coronel y Arana, throw light upon the later period. By utilizing these sources, and others of less importance, Major Hume lends a personal interest to his description of the principal personages in the historical drama, and his rapid outline of the political situation is vigorous and effective in its brevity. He is justified in holding that the circumstances of the time were peculiarly unfortunate from the Spanish point of view:—

"The deadly rivalry between the house of Austria and the house of France had existed since the earliest years of the sixteenth century.....It had been a fixed canon of English foreign policy that the Flemish dominions of the house of Burgundy, that had descended to the Spanish Kings,

must never be allowed to fall into the hands of France, and when such a danger threatened, England invariably interfered in favour of Spain.....But the revolutionary war which had overthrown the monarchy of the Stuarts had for years doomed England to impotence in the struggles of Europe; and Richelieu and his successor Mazarin had been able to disregard an influence which had always previously stepped in to prevent the final humiliation of Spain. Without this immunity from England's interference, France would never have been free to foment rebellion in Catalonia and Portugal; and it may be said that Philip, to a great extent, owed the extremity of his tribulation to the internal disturbance in England."

The point is a fair one; but it is the business of a statesman to adapt his policy to existing conditions, and Philip cannot be acquitted of both incapacity and obstinacy. Major Hume clearly has a weakness for the King, and is always inclined to put the most favourable interpretation on his conduct; but the facts are stated candidly enough, and the reader is thus enabled to form an independent opinion. Olivares is less indulgently treated. The author speaks more than once of the Count-Duke's determination to "banish the whole brood" of the Sandovals as though this were something exceptional; but the minister's place would not have been worth a week's purchase if he had allowed Philip to be surrounded by Lerma's creatures, and he simply treated Lerma as Lerma had treated Cristóbal de Mora, García de Loaysa, Vázquez de Arce, and others. Olivares had every reason to know that Philip was completely under the influence of those about him, and it is probable that, in spite of the disasters in Portugal and Catalonia, he would have kept his post to the end if he could have banished the Queen, the Duchess of Mantua, and Ana de Guevara from Madrid. Olivares and Haro are chiefly to blame for their corrupt administration and for their unwearying complaisance. There is something grotesque in the spectacle of a king spending a fortune in gilt gingerbread shows and theatrical extravagances while all salaries were in arrear, the Court tradesmen's bills unpaid, and the household reduced to something like starvation. Barrioueu records that on the Feast of the Presentation in 1657 Philip's dinner was cut down to "eggs and more eggs," and in the previous year the Queen's dessert was paid for by the Court buffoon; the Infanta fared better, for on St. Francis's day she was provided with a capon, which, however, was removed, "because it smelt like dead dogs."

The ostentation, squalor, and profligacy of Philip's Court are well set forth, but Major Hume is somewhat too inclined to accept the traditional version of events. Like most writers who relate Philip's amour with "La Calderona," he describes her as throwing herself at the King's feet, and declaring that, after giving birth to Don John of Austria, "nothing more was left to her but to devote the rest of her life to cloistered sanctity"; Philip is said to have given way with sorrow, "and the actress María Calderon became the abbess of a remote convent." This is picturesque, and it is so far true that (according to Casiano Pellicer) "La Calderona," like so many of her contemporaries, ended her days in a religious community; but the *dénouement* was much less speedy and dramatic than the recital in the text implies. Don John was born on April 17th, 1629, but his mother did not retire to a convent at this time; three years later she was still on the stage, travelling from town to town accompanied by her husband Tomás de Rojas. The following contract, dated December 7th, 1632, is decisive:—

"Obligación de María Calderón, de ir a la villa de Pinto y ayudar, haciendo los primeros papeles, á hacer dos autos y dos comedias el dia del Corpus y el siguiente, cobrando 1050 reales.

"Además la han de llevar y traer y juntamente á su marido Tomás de Rojas y á una criada, posada y cama y ocho reales de ración cada dia de ida, estada y vuelta."

Evidently the details of the Calderona legend must be abandoned; and the account of the Villanueva episode (pp. 347-51), based on a manuscript narrative printed by Mesonero Romanos, should be received with considerable reserve. Whether Philip was personally concerned in any of the irregularities at San Plácido, we are unable to say; the charges against Villanueva refer to the year 1628, were brought on his own self-denunciation in 1632, and were then set aside by the Suprema. The proceedings in 1644 refer to the same charges, and were begun in the hope of finding among Villanueva's papers material which could be used to compromise Olivares in his retirement. The documents at Simancas, used by Dr. Lea, prove that the appeal to Rome was lodged by the brother and sister of the accused, that Villanueva died in disgrace in 1653, and that the case was not settled till March 29th, 1660. Major Hume is, of course, familiar with the intricacies of this celebrated suit, which ended in a signal defeat for Philip and Arce y Reynoso, the Inquisitor-General; but he succumbs to the temptation which besets every specialist, credits his readers with more knowledge than they possess, and is liable to mislead them by presenting the facts in too condensed a form.

A few oversights call for correction. Rodrigo Calderón had not already been imprisoned for five years in 1615 (p. 31); he was first arrested and placed in the Casa del Cordon at Valladolid on February 20th, 1619. Valdés was not a playwright, but a theatrical manager, married to Jerónima de Burgos, the famous actress: the three plays attributed to him on p. 61 are by Villegas, Enciso, and Lope de Vega respectively. The denial of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was no "crime" in the seventeenth century (p. 146). In the minutes of the inquiry into the conduct of Sor María de Jesús de Agreda, a personage who won Philip's confidence, and who appears repeatedly in the present volume, the commissary of the Inquisition notes with disapproval that the nun gave out this pious belief as a dogma: she was two hundred years too soon. Calderón and Moreto were not dramatists of established reputation in 1624 (p. 147): Moreto, indeed, was a child of six at this date. But these and other slight blemishes do not detract from the interest of this animated tableau.

The Last Days of Marie Antoinette, from the French of G. Lenotre by Mrs. Rodolph Stawell (Heinemann), surpasses in interest that which we had a year ago from the same scholarly editor and excellent translator. Although this collection of narratives and official documents is not, as M. Lenotre says, "a new book about Marie Antoinette," it is something much better than what is often palmed off upon the public under that designation. To the great body of readers its contents will be fresh; and to specialists in revolutionary history it is a boon to have in convenient form, adequately introduced and carefully annotated, authentic documents which are not easily to be seen in the original. The text is accompanied by several illustrations of unusual interest, including an excellent reproduction of an unpublished portrait by Werthmüller of the

Queen in hunting-dress, and contemporary sketches of the Tower of the Temple.

Although these narratives are the best evidence available, most of them made their appearance under Restoration influences. This, however, is not the case with regard to the document which M. Lenotre calls 'The Narrative of Daujon.' This has been quoted by Beauchesne and other writers, but it is now first published as a whole from the original in M. Sardou's collection. M. Lenotre demonstrates to our satisfaction that the commissioner of the Paris Commune who wrote it was not, as previous authorities have supposed, Danjou, a schoolmaster and unfrocked priest, but a sculptor named Daujon. He was a "patriot," and did not, like some of his colleagues, fall under the spell of the royal prisoners over whom he was appointed to watch. But he was a man of humane feelings, and he did them a great service at a critical moment. When the horde of miscreants who had murdered and torn to pieces the Princesse de Lamballe during the September massacres attempted to force an entrance into the Temple, in order to make the Queen kiss her friend's remains, Daujon had a tricoloured sash hung up in front of the main entrance ("the only rampart that the magistrate consented to raise in opposition to the torrent," he says), climbed upon a chair placed behind it, and succeeded by a cajoling speech (delivered between a corpse's head on a pike on one side and a hand holding Madame de Lamballe's entrails on the other) in inducing the crowd to make off to the Palais Royal. Daujon admits that his own words were "an insult to reason and humanity"; but he was successful, not only in his main object, but also in shielding his prisoners from sight of, as well as contact with, the terrible thing that menaced them. In a note to his narrative he gives disgusting particulars of the massacre which were communicated to him, but appends reasons, based on his knowledge of revolutionary pathology, for discrediting the worst of them. Another feature of this remarkable document is an account of the physical breakdown of Louis XVI. ("Capet") during this period. The King generally exhibited stolid courage; but we do not deem M. Lenotre's apology for him either necessary or convincing.

Little is known of what went on during the four days between the 10th of August, 1792, and the removal of the royal family to the Temple, though these eighty hours, in the author's words, "constituted the real crisis in the affairs of the monarchy." The narrative of the man Dufour is therefore of some value, though we know little of him or his motives. The Rohan-Chabot incident, described in the minutes of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly on August 11th, is also "rather a vague piece of evidence"; but it affords proof, as the editor remarks, of the pressure exercised on the Assembly by the Commune.

M. Lenotre has prefixed to the narratives of what took place during the imprisonment of the royal family in the Temple a minute reconstruction of its topography. Notwithstanding the fact that the place underwent a complete change during the Revolution, Beauchesne, in his book on the Dauphin, was content to reproduce a plan of the precincts, made in 1811. M. Lenotre's plans, taken from topographical drawings in the National Archives, represent the buildings as they were between 1789 and 1792, together with the alterations made, in view of the imprisonment of the King and Queen, in the autumn of the latter year.

These Temple narratives, besides the one to which we have already adverted, include

those of Turgy, a manservant who waited upon the prisoners; of Town Councillor Goret, a member of the Commune, who acted as a Commissioner of the Temple; of Moëlle, who fulfilled the same functions; and the recollections of Jacques François Lepitre, also a municipal officer and commissioner. Turgy was in attendance during the whole period, and had preserved several notes written by Madame Elizabeth, with which he assisted his memory when he wrote in 1814. He followed Madame Royale to Vienna, and received a patent of nobility at the Restoration. His narrative was revised by Eckard, and published in 1818. It is chiefly remarkable for the particulars it contains of the elaborate code of signals by the use of which news from the outer world was communicated to the prisoners. Goret, Lepitre, and Moëlle had all some sort of an understanding with their charges. The first, in referring to the bad lighting of the rooms and other "precautions," expresses the opinion that "some secret and powerful faction carried out these measures in spite of the Council, and even of the Mayor," as he heard no discussion of the subject. He records conversations with the King, M. de Malesherbes, and the Queen, and was the intermediary who procured mourning for the prisoners after the execution of Louis.

Lepitre's recollections give particulars of a daring plot by which the Queen and Madame Elizabeth in the disguise of municipal commissioners, and the Dauphin and his sister as a lamplighter's children, were to have been smuggled out of the Temple in the spring of '93. M. Lenotre attributes its failure to Lepitre's own pusillanimity in refusing to supply passports, and discredits the excuses which he gives for its abandonment. Both Lepitre and Moëlle were arrested on a charge of having an understanding with the "widow Capet," but were acquitted. Moëlle describes how the royal family were spied upon by Tison and his wife, remarks upon the King's skill as a carver, and records an interesting conversation with Marie Antoinette, held on the platform at the top of the Tower. He also dwells upon the attractiveness of the Dauphin, not as yet brutalized by his captors. But perhaps the most significant passage in his narrative is that in which he notes that the confidence of the royal prisoners was never betrayed by any of those who were "honoured with it in a greater or less degree," and considers this as great a proof of "the Princess's discernment" as of the sincere devotion the captives inspired.

Of the Conciergerie narratives, that of Rosalie Lamorlière, despite the fact that it was almost certainly doctored by Lafont d'Aussonne (she could herself neither read nor write), seems to be well supported from other sources, and is aptly supplemented by the 'Inquiry' of Madame Simon-Vonet. The poor prison cook was a real heroine, and risked all by her kindness to the Queen in her last sad days. M. Lenotre considers that, with the help of the descriptions afforded by her and other eyewitnesses, the situation of the Council Room, where Marie Antoinette was confined during her first forty days in the Conciergerie, is easily determinable, though given up as an insoluble problem by the historians. Rosalie notices particularly Marie Antoinette's care of her person and her ungratified desire for employment, denying to Madame Simon-Vonet the common story as to her having done her own washing in the prison. Perhaps the most pathetic passage in the narrative is that in which it is remarked how the poor Queen played with her diamond rings: "As she sat dreaming, she would take them

off and put them on again, and slip them from one hand to the other several times in a minute."

Madame Bault, wife of the second gaoler who had charge of the Conciergerie during Marie Antoinette's imprisonment, admits that she never entered the Queen's room throughout the whole time; but many of the statements she makes are corroborated by other narratives, and it is to her credit that she resisted Lafont d'Aussonne's attempt to suborn her testimony. Still, the words with which she concludes her own account appear to us to be open to the suspicion of protesting too much.

The somewhat remarkable circumstance of the Queen's receiving the Communion from two orthodox priests in her last prison appears to be amply substantiated by a declaration of the Abbé Magnin and the recollections of Mlle. Fouché. The two documents relating to the trial of Marie Antoinette call for no comment.

With regard to the narratives of the execution, that of Larivière, the turnkey, is the fullest, though the greater part of it is preliminary matter. In this there is a striking incident showing the Queen's repugnance to the sight of a National Guard's uniform, as reminding her of the 6th of October "and all the misfortunes of my family." The narrative ends impressively: "This is what I saw; this is what I would I had never seen; this is what I shall never forget as long as I live." De Busne, who claimed the Cross of St. Louis at the Restoration, scarcely seems, from what is recorded here of him, to have deserved it. The story of the gendarme Léger, though accepted by M. Campardon, conflicts in important points with the narratives of Rosalie Lamorlière and Madame Bault. That of Rouy is patently valueless; and the other two are of slight texture.

The determination of the spot in the Madeleine cemetery, where the King and Queen were buried after their execution, is another topographical service rendered by M. Lenotre. A legal statement by the Chancellor of France as to the steps taken in 1814 to exhume the bodies and remove them to St. Denis is added. Not the least remarkable part of M. Lenotre's collection relates to Marie Antoinette's last letter (her so-called "will"), which came into the possession of certain member of the Convention named Courtois. He found it among Robespierre's papers, and kept it till he was forced to give it up in 1816.

The Story of a Beautiful Duchess. By Horace Bleackley. (Constable & Co.)—This is a satisfactory piece of biographical construction, spoilt in places by a tendency to indulge in ornamental language. Mr. Bleackley possesses a sound knowledge of the period through which Elizabeth Gunning—Duchess first of Hamilton, and secondly of Argyll—moved with stately grace. He is particularly to be commended for his researches into the journalism of the eighteenth century, since, though his gleanings may not contribute much to the elucidation of truth, they show, at any rate, what was being said and thought by people like the *Tertium Quid* of 'The Ring and the Book.' Now and again Mr. Bleackley seems overinclined to elaborate the "times." Thus, after the Duke of Hamilton had conducted his penniless Irish bride to Hamilton, subsequently to their secret marriage in the "great chapel" of the Rev. Alexander Keith, we are told that no doubt his Grace was delighted to find in the Provost and bailies of Glasgow "capable boon-companions to chat of the fugitive Alan Breck Stewart and his recent Appin murder,"

which we discuss in the next column. It may have been so, of course, but, on the other hand, the worthy magistrates may have preferred to talk of oxen as a safer topic.

Elizabeth Gunning is an engaging figure in the pages of Horace Walpole. Unlike her sister, the Coventry, who was giddy, she was blameless in her conduct. No less a person than General Wolfe, who met her soon after her first marriage, declared: "The lady has lost nothing of her bloom and beauty; is very well behaved, supports her dignity with tolerable ease to herself, and seems to be justly sensible of her good fortune." Mr. Bleackley prints some original letters, which prove her to have been a shrewd woman of business, and to have been capable of gratitude to people like Sir Robert Keith who were kind to her unhappy daughter, the Countess of Derby. Otherwise the letters do not give evidence of much strength of character, nor can we rise to her biographer's rhapsodies on the Duchess in her capacity of mother. She seems to have deliberately shut her ears to poor Lady Betty's objections to her grotesque little bridegroom and to have callously engineered a *mariage de convenience*. Mr. Bleackley does not mention, by the way, that the Mrs. Armistead, Armitstead, or Armstead in whom Lord Derby sought temporary consolation, subsequently became the wife of Charles James Fox and the "lady of St. Ann's Hill." Rogers declared that she began life as a waiting-woman to Mrs. Abingdon. Hers must have been a ripe experience.

The Duchess fought with resolution against the redoubtable "Peggy of Mains," Duchess of Douglas, for the claims of her son, the Duke of Hamilton, in the great Douglas cause. Mr. Bleackley pilots his readers through the intricacies of that extraordinary affair with a skilful touch, and brings them to the conclusion that the twins, who were alleged to have been born in Paris, were supposititious children. He has, no doubt, Hume and Adam Smith to back him, and, for that matter, Dr. Johnson. But why should Lady Jane Douglas have burdened herself with twins, one dark and the other fair, when a single baby would have answered her purpose? Hush-money, for one thing, would probably have had to be paid to two sets of people instead of one. Mr. Bleackley does not quite grapple with that point, though he adopts the theory that the elder child, the swarthy Archibald, was the son of some poor people named Mignon.

The novelist's touch is to be discovered in Mr. George Morgan's animated work *The True Patrick Henry* (J. B. Lippincott). The writer's imagination occasionally runs riot when he attempts to reconstruct the scenes through which the orator of Virginia moved. All the same, Mr. Morgan's is a sound achievement in biography, since he has neglected no source of information, however apparently trivial, and has made judicious use of such recognized authorities as William Wirt Henry and Jefferson. He is over-anxious to explain away Patrick Henry's inconsistencies as a politician, even with allowance made for the fierce animosities of the age in which the United States came to birth. On the other hand, we get the orator and advocate to the life, capable of assuming at will the majesty of a Chatham or the familiarity—of an O'Connell. The extent to which Patrick Henry relied on histrionic devices is curious; and if it proves him to be a supreme actor, it also presupposes a somewhat unsophisticated audience.

Trial of James Stewart (the Appin Murder). By David N. Mackay. (Sweet & Maxwell.)

—Greater interest attaches to the latest volume in the series of "Notable Scottish Trials" than to any of the earlier ones. The Appin murder, heartless and cold-blooded though it was, involves the reader in none of the revolting details inseparable from poisoning cases; and the motive—revenge—makes the crime appear less dastardly than when the incentive is more sordid. The deed itself—the slaughter of Colin Campbell of Glenure—might have been remembered only as a bloody incident in the long-standing feud between the Stewarts of Appin and the clan Campbell, had it not been stamped for ever in the memory of the people of Lochaber by the flagrant injustice of subsequent proceedings, and the blend of political considerations and clan hatred which hurried to the gallows a man almost certainly as guiltless of fore-knowledge as he undoubtedly was of active part in the murder.

The deed itself has been too often described to require more than the briefest reference here. After the Jacobite rising of 1745, Campbell of Glenure, a grandson of the chivalrous Lochiel of the '15, was appointed by the Hanoverian Government factor on three forfeited estates in the Cameron country. Being of a Jacobite family, he became suspected of dealing too leniently with certain tenants, and appears to have pressed forward some evictions in order to vindicate his character with his employers. Ominous murmurs and menaces were uttered, among others by James Stewart—James of the Glen—whom Glenure had appointed assistant factor. On May 14th, 1752, Glenure rode with the Sheriff Officer and two others from Inveraray into Appin, intending to carry out the decreed evictions next day. As the party were passing the wood of Lettermore, a shot rang out; Glenure fell with a broken spine, and a man was seen running on the hill-side with a gun in his hand. Scarcely anybody doubted that the murderer was one Allan Breck, a noted ne'er-do-well who had served successfully in King George's army, Prince Charlie's, and that of the King of France; and the hue and cry was raised upon him. But Allan, being light of foot, made good his escape. The Government could not afford to have their agent slain in a Jacobite district without exacting retribution from somebody. James Stewart had been heard to use strong language about the Appin evictions, so James was arrested without a warrant, and was allowed neither legal nor lay assistance in preparing his defence. Moreover, as the offence alleged against him was not bailable, he could have claimed to be tried in Edinburgh; but he was allowed no means of making this claim. Arrested on May 16th, he was put on trial on September 10th (21st, new style) at Inveraray, the chief place of those very Campbells who had maintained a blood feud with the Stewarts of Appin for generations. The ordinary judges of assize were Lord Elchies and Lord Kilkerran; but they could not be trusted in such a critical case. Stewart must hang; so the Duke of Argyll, Lord Justice General, assumed the presidency of the Court, and pronounced that doom upon James of the Glen which a carefully packed jury—eleven Campbells out of fifteen—found that he had incurred.

If any man doubt whether such a terrible perversion of justice could take place in the eighteenth century, let him study Mr. D. N. Mackay's narrative, which, supported as it is by the full proceedings at the trial and other documents, will leave him with small inclination to disagree with Mr. Andrew

Lang's finding that "political necessities and clan hatred killed James Stewart."

THREE BOOKS ON IRELAND.

History of the Queen's County. By the Very Rev. Canon O'Hanlon and the Rev. E. O'Leary. Vol. I. (Dublin, Sealy, Bryers & Walker.)

History of Clonmel. By the Rev. W. P. Burke. (Waterford, Harvey & Co.)

A Book of Saints and Wonders. By Lady Gregory. (John Murray.)

CANON O'HANLON's laborious volume, the result of a life's work, not to speak of the editing by Father O'Leary, affords welcome evidence that the Catholic clergy are attending, besides their profession, to something other than politics. The present is merely an instalment, or the first volume of the history, so that the controversial part lies outside it. The annals of the county are only carried down to 1558, when it and the King's County received their names from Philip and Mary. We have no fault to find with Canon O'Hanlon's treatment, except that the 'Ecclesiastical, Diocesan, and Parochial History' is the main part, and in the author's opinion far the most important part of the book, occupying 250 out of its 440 pages.

The opening part, on the 'Natural History,' is well and carefully done, with the help of many experts. But under the flora we should gladly have seen some notice of the pitcher plant, which is commonly said to have been found on Lord Castletown's moors, and which offered a puzzle to botanists. Under the fishes we meet with the comical statement that, while the trout is found in all the rivers, "its near relation the salmon has been taken in the Nore and Barrow and their tributaries." Such language might be appropriate to the sturgeon, which occasionally wanders into the estuaries, but seems to a fisherman a somewhat libellous account of two well-known salmon rivers. There is nothing said about the sea-trout, which is always rare in the rivers of Ireland that run eastward into the Irish Sea, whereas it comes up the western rivers in millions. But we presume that sea-trout are occasionally taken in the Nore and Barrow.

The prehistoric monuments are carefully described, and here the Canon had the great advantage of quoting the work of two Protestant clergy—Ledwich in the eighteenth century and James Graves in the nineteenth. The latter was indefatigable in his researches, not only in Kilkenny, but also in the Queen's County. The annals from pagan times down to 1558 occupy the last part of the book. In a proper history they should come next after the physical geography, whereas parochial chapters should be a sort of appendix. The best excuse for the present order may be found in the miserable chronicle of early Ireland outside its monasteries. Even these were by no means exempt from rapine and fire. There were few of them not ravaged at some time either by Danes or native chieftains. Indeed, the whole chronicle, as given not by hostile witnesses, but in the famous 'Annals of the Four Masters,' should, we think, convince any dispassionate judge that Ireland was doomed to perpetual confusion and anarchy but for the intervention of foreign and more civilized Powers. The Anglo-Normans were the first great boon of this kind. The Fitzgeralds and Butlers and De Courcys introduced some order, and founded or endowed most of the great religious houses in the country. The bloody wars of Elizabeth, followed by the Plantations under her and

James I. and Cromwell, harsh and unjust as they were, made the beginnings of the civilization and prosperity now existing in the country. It is, indeed, constantly asserted by Irish historians that they destroyed far more than they built up. We are asked to believe that a great early civilization was ruined by the Tudors. The evidence in the published State papers does not bear out that assertion.

To turn to the external side of the work, as the volume is expensive, it should have been provided with many more maps, especially a large folding map of the present county. Even one of the old maps promised in the Preface fails to appear. If the second volume does not contain a complete index, the main value of this storehouse of knowledge will be sacrificed.

We turn to a book on a kindred subject, but affording many contrasts to the meritorious work just noticed. The 'History of Clonmel,' as the author says boldly in his Preface, "is as complete as it is possible now to make it." But it is certainly not so handy to study as he might have made it. The first signal omission is a map of the town and its surroundings. Thus we constantly hear of the Irish town, outside the walls, but we are given no means of identifying it. The author would have done well to substitute a map for ugly photographs of vulgar modern streets and churches. The same may be said regarding the token money struck by merchants of the town (1656-68), which is described, but not pictured. Lastly, it is really inconsiderate to head every page of the book with the words 'History of Clonmel,' without any indication of chapters or subjects. In partial compensation there are full indexes, in which, however, we have been balked by false references (e.g. under Hely-Hutchinson). This exhausts our complaints, which are, so to speak, challenged by the author's preface, and we turn to a hearty commendation of the excellent work he has done.

Dividing his volume into two parts (not indicated in the list of chapters at the opening of the book), Father Burke gives us first a most attractive and well-written history of the town, and then a series of monographs on the remaining evidence for this history. We cannot remember any Irish county or city history done with such literary skill. Gilbert's 'Dublin' is little more than a catalogue of gossip classified under particular streets, with no comprehensive views; the present writer has the gift of an historian, and makes his pages tell a connected and an interesting tale. Luckily, perhaps, for us, he is not without prejudices. Unprejudiced history, though most valuable, is seldom readable; and this book is eminently readable. The account of the doings at Clonmel of Jerome Sankey, or of the judicial murder of Father Sheehy (1766) at the time of the panic created by the Whiteboys, is well worth reading as literature.

At the opening the author shows himself alive to the fact that a large non-Aryan population existed before the invasion of the Celts, and he sees that they may have had a considerable influence on even the present national character. Clonmel, of course, like Dublin and Waterford, was never an Irish (Celtic) town. It was the creation of Danes and Anglo-Normans. But, like these other towns, it was far more sturdily Catholic than if it had been created by the aborigines. It took all the drastic treatment of the Cromwellians to root out the Catholic gentry and merchants from the Corporation, and now this influence has returned and reigns supreme.

We have no space to enter upon the many

details which fill the second part; if there is a complete absence of any old documents, Father Burke has been able to unearth many from the eighteenth century of great value. The importance of the Ormond family in Clonmel suggests a warning to the reader that although this great family has long inhabited a splendid and historic castle in Kilkenny, it has little to say to that city, where hardly a house (we believe) is Ormond property, whereas Clonmel was the capital of the Palatinate of Tipperary, which was the real seat and strength of the Butlers. In conclusion, we call attention to the interesting city coat of arms on the cover, and the beautiful maces (1663) adequately described by a first-rate specialist, Mr. J. R. Garstin.

We will conclude with a few words on Lady Gregory's charming 'Book of Saints and Wonders.' It is a collection of stories gathered from old Irish texts, or from the talk of the peasants, set down in quaint and graphic English. Lady Gregory's literary art is well known, and the present volume is a good instance of it. Most of the tales are on religious subjects, and those which are too naturalistic are excluded, so that we have a pleasant record of the imagination of the Celtic people of Ireland.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Through the Magic Door. By Arthur Conan Doyle. (Smith, Elder & Co.)—We assume from his manner of address and other signs that Sir A. Conan Doyle's book is designed to stimulate reading in younger and less experienced students. As a genial introduction to literature it has a certain value; but from another point of view its interest is greater as a revelation of the author's own literary history. It is easy to trace here that he was influenced tremendously by Poe and by Charles Reade, whose importance he probably exaggerates, therefore. But it is surprising to find him placing such a value on Macaulay. Sir A. Conan Doyle is a steadfast adherent of Scott, though he does set 'The Cloister and the Hearth' above all the Waverley Novels. 'Ivanhoe' he considers the best of these, and 'Quentin Durward' comes next in his esteem. His estimate of Johnson will surprise some; at any rate, he brings a formidable indictment against the intellectual equipment of a man whom another of his heroes, W. E. Henley, has described as "our greatest, wisest Englishman." Johnson, however, lives as an individuality, rather than as a literary man. Sir A. Conan Doyle's verdict on Borrow is singularly favourable. Borrow, like Johnson, was rather a man than an artist. He was a walking miscellany of information, and prejudice; and it is not mainly for his style that we read him. It is for his pleasant garrulity, and because we wonder what he will be doing next. The passage in praise of England quoted by Sir Arthur from 'The Bible in Spain' is merely an inflated rhapsody of commonplaces; and the critical powers were surely weak of a man who ranked Southey as the greatest of poets! Sir Arthur, like Borrow, exhibits in these prolegomena a pleasant garrulity and a charitable spirit which should be acceptable to the company for which he destines the volume. His judgments are interesting, his enthusiasm is infectious, and his *obiter dicta* are amusingly discursive. He writes with almost impassioned interest of the prize-ring and of Napoleon. Among the best of short stories he ranks Stevenson's 'Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde,' which is hardly a short story in an artistic sense, and 'The

Pavilion on the Links,' which also falls outside the proper scope. He makes no mention of 'The Merry Men' or of 'Olalla,' or even of 'Thrawn Janet.' We are glad to see he has a word to say for that awesome story of Lytton's 'The Haunters and the Haunted.'

A Woman's Trek from the Cape to Cairo. By Mary Hall. (Methuen & Co.)—Miss Hall, after a preliminary journey to South Africa, in the course of which she visited Zimbabwe and the Victoria Falls, set out for the Zambezi in April, 1905. The river trip is apparently very much what it has been for the last fifteen years, as far as Port Herald; but at this point the traveller has the advantage of going by rail to Chirimo in two hours, instead of spending, perhaps, two days in rounding the bend of the river in a boat. From Chirimo, Miss Hall performed the old-fashioned *machila* journey to Blantyre by way of Tyolo, covering the intervals between waterways, for the rest of the route, in the same fashion. These intervals are comparatively insignificant, as a glance at the map will show, being limited to the few miles between Blantyre and Fort Johnston, Karonga's and Abercorn, Usumbora and Bokoba, and Mengo and Butiaba. Left to the society and assistance of her *tenga-tenga* men, with (for part of the way) the invaluable "boys" engaged in British Central Africa, she reached her goal much more easily and satisfactorily than any armed expedition. In fact, it seems (p. 238) as if she got on better without the *askari* provided as escort for a short distance by a considerate German Government. We fancy this is the usual experience of women who travel in the wild parts of the earth—perhaps because such travel attracts none but those really qualified to succeed in it. Miss Hall reached Khartum in February, 1906. The record of her journey is brightly and pleasantly written, and yields more than one fact of interest to the anthropologist, such as the narrative on pp. 104-6. This has been published in *The Aurora*, the periodical of the Livingstonia Mission; but some of the incidents took place during Miss Hall's stay, and so came under her own observation. It is a remarkable instance of death following on the "curse" of an enemy. Some statements seem open to question, and are probably due to a misunderstanding of some kind; e.g., on p. 121 it is said that the London Missionary Society "had its origin at Ujiji about 1876," and on p. 14 that the missionaries of the same Society have "taught the [Tanganjika] natives lake-fishing"—which they must have practised from time immemorial. Again, on p. 73 the author writes concerning the Nyasa women's brass armlets: "To make it take the shape satisfactorily it is put on when the brass is hot"—which must be either an unmitigated "yarn," pointing to an abuse of Miss Hall's confidence by some one, or a confusion arising from the fact that these ornaments have to be put on by a professional brass-worker. The author has earned our gratitude by putting on record several good stories, true or *ben trovati*, and we can only regret that space forbids our quoting them.

With the Border Ruffians: Memories of the Far West, 1852-68. By R. H. Williams. Edited by E. W. Williams. (John Murray.)—This is a famous book to put into the hands of an adventure-loving lad, for reading at the Christmas season. It has close upon five hundred pages, and not one of them is devoid of stirring interest. It is a document; but it is also a fascinating romance, the interest of which reminds one more than

a little of the qualities which have made 'Robinson Crusoe' beloved. Withal, this is not fiction, but a record of actual experience. One almost wishes it were fiction, for then it would be a remarkable work of art. On the other hand, it would then, of course, lose the serious documentary value it now has as a graphic picture of a phase of American life which has passed for ever—a sort of life, indeed, which English-speaking people may never know again; for it is certain that, although many parts of British North America have still to pass through the early stages of progress which Mr. Williams watched in the Southern and Western States of the Union, Canada will never undergo the experiences depicted here. The development of the Canadian West is proceeding upon lines other than those followed by the early settlers of the United States West. Nothing is more noteworthy in the modern life of the Canadian prairie than the definite assertion of public opinion which forbids the use of "shooting-irons" and bowie-knives, and provides certain legal punishment for the "bad man" wherever he may rear his head. The life of a prairie town in Western Canada is as decent and law-abiding as that of any English village. But life in Kansas, and Texas, and Nebraska in the fifties, as described here by Mr. Williams, while it certainly makes more exciting reading, could not, by any stretch of patriotic American imagination, be so characterized. It was a life which contained much of daring, bravery, and enduring hardihood; but it also contained a deal of cruelty, treachery, bullying, and sheer rascality.

The author of this fascinating volume was born in 1831, the eldest son of an English country parson. His parents intended him for the Church, while he cherished ambitions in the direction of military life or the Indian Civil Service. But there were financial difficulties, and the upshot was the author's apprenticeship in the mercantile marine. He made a number of voyages, and saw India, Australia, and South America; but in the spring of 1852 he sailed from Liverpool, bound for Virginia, as an emigrant, determined to settle on the land there. It is curious to find how many of the accessories familiar in stories of adventure were present in the case of this real romance. He took a well-loved dog with him, and found a trusty henchman in the person of a gigantic North-Country navvy. But this man, after serving him loyally for some time, gave way to drink, and finally, after trying to kill his hero with an axe, insisted upon meeting him in a bout of fisticuffs.

The book teems with passages which would tempt the reviewer to quotation, did space permit. From first to last, the author looked Death in the face many times and in widely varying circumstances. He tasted the bitterness of imprisonment, and knew what it was to stand beneath a tree with a noose about his neck under sentence of death, his ears straining to catch the hoof-beats of a horse that might or might not bring a rider with a reprieve. He took his fill of the excitement of fighting with redskins and with whites, and held commissioned rank in the Texan and the Kansas Rangers while fighting for the South and for the "institution" of slavery in which, at that time, he firmly believed. Even now, when quietly penning this record by his peaceful English fireside, he feels it his duty to say that, so far as his own experience goes, the cruelties of slavery in the States have been overdrawn, though he is glad the war ended as it did. Looking back, across almost four decades, at his stirring

life in America, Mr. Williams (who is now a Justice of the Peace, by the way) is perfectly safe in his assumption that many readers of to-day in England will find the story of his active wanderings one of deep interest.

We are glad to see in the "Temple Classics" (Dent) *The Hellenics and Gebir* of Landor. A manuscript of his in private hands begins:—

"You tell me you are afraid my 'Hellenics,' being in blank verse, will not be popular. I do believe I might be pleased by popularity, if it had come to me; but I never called it or made room for it."

A popular edition of the 'Hellenics' now appears more than forty years after his death, but not exactly in the form he would have chosen. Mr. Arthur Symons, under whose supervision it has been prepared, merely gives us the 1847 version—that of 1859, which contained several new pieces, being only referred to in a bibliographical note. A criticism of the 'Hellenics' did not come within the scope of the series to which the present volume belongs, and need not be attempted here, especially as the edition of 1847 was reviewed in *The Athenæum* on January 29th, 1848. But we may quote, from another autograph manuscript, what Landor himself said of these poems. "These," he wrote,

"if they bear any resemblance to others, bear it to the ancient Greek: how far they fall short, let those men take the measure who possess the wand."

Along with the 'Hellenics,' Mr. Symons reprints the first edition of 'Gebir,' published by Landor in 1798. At least one blunder is introduced into the text.

A passage in the fifth book is thus given:—

The tongue
Of Dalica has then our rights divulged.

For "rights" the editions of 1798, 1803, 1831, 1846, and 1876 all read "rites." Perhaps it would have been wiser to follow the text of the second edition of 1803. This contained several notes which ought not to be overlooked. For instance, in the 1798 edition and in the present reprint there is a trying mistake in the oft-quoted passage describing the contest of the sea-nymph with Tamar:—

Then ran I to the highest ground
To watch her: she was gone; gone down to the tide;
And the long moon-beam on the hard wet sand
Lay like a jasper column half upreared.

"Gone down the tide" it should be; and in the second edition, where the line is correctly printed, Landor has a note deplored the strange blunder. "No errors," he says,

"are so fatal as those which give a meaning, but give an improper one. If the nymph had merely gone to the tide, the narration of Tamar in all probability would not have ended—but she went down the tide, and consequently disappeared."

Concerning the origin of the story of Gebir Mr. Symons is content to quote Landor's statement which shows that he found it in Clara Reeve's 'Progress of Romance.' But there is a good deal more to be said. The author of 'The Old English Baron' got it from a French translation by Pierre Vattier of an Arabic manuscript in Cardinal Mazarin's library, or perhaps from the English translation by John Davies (London, 1672) of Vattier's book. The Mazarin manuscript is lost, but other versions of the Gebir legend are given by Al Masudi of Baghdad in his 'Meadows of Gold and Mines of Gems,' as well as in another Arabic work translated by Baron Carra de Vaux, 'Abrégé des Merveilles' (Paris, 1898). But Vattier, Al Masudi, and the unknown author of the 'Abrégé' all represent Gebir not as "the sovereign of Boetic Spain," but as a prince of the Amale-

kites, who invaded Egypt shortly after the time of Abraham. Landor, in fact, had got hold of a Coptic legend about the conquest of the country by the Hyksos; and it would need all the wisdom of the Egyptologists to explain away some of the obscurities of the poem.

The Hibbert Journal for 1906-7, which comes to us from Messrs. Williams & Norgate, is well up to the level of its predecessors. The existence of this quarterly and the widespread attention which it has evoked are evidence of the general interest in the fundamental problems of religion. It has, moreover, the great merit of being always lively reading.

THE Librairie Hachette of Paris publish *Mandrin, Capitaine Général des Contingents de France*, by M. Frantz Funck-Brentano. The preface, somewhat heavy in its style, deals with a matter of great historic interest, namely, the tax system of the French eighteenth century and the position of the Fermiers Généraux. The illegal steps taken by the Ferme to catch and kill Mandrin (the "king of smugglers," who of all such in their history had given them the most trouble) are recorded by the author with careful pains, increased by the destruction of the minutes of the Greffe of the Council of State at the Cour des Comptes in the fire of May, 1871. The action of the Ferme in its war against Mandrin involved a violation on a large scale of the Piedmontese frontier, and all but induced the Kingdom of Sardinia to join with Great Britain in attacking France. After the band of Mandrin had been taken on foreign soil, the prisoners were carried off to Valence, and Mandrin tried and broken on the wheel, before the Court of Turin had been informed of the circumstances of the capture. Louis XV. ordered the immediate cessation of proceedings, but was kept in ignorance of the fact that news of the execution of Mandrin had reached the Ferme before the King's interview with his minister at Versailles. It was at once decided that a special embassy should be sent to Charles Emmanuel to apologize for the violation of his sovereignty. At the last moment fierce opposition in the Council of Madame de Pompadour, and the less powerful, but more official Conseil du Roi, caused the Marshal de Belle Isle to kick the floor with rage, and a succession of distinguished men to refuse the humiliating embassy. After all was over the high price of Mandrin's blood was paid by the Ferme to his betrayers: on the other hand, the smuggler king obtained great posthumous popularity. M. Funck-Brentano describes the first outbreak of the Revolution at Grenoble in June, 1788, as directly traceable to the passions aroused in Dauphiné by the Mandrin war. In a final chapter he leads the reader to the death, at the hands of the executioner, of the band of distinguished patrons of letters, fine art, and cookery, and describes in detail the fate of the Fermiers Généraux. Lavoisier was the only great man among the Fermiers Généraux guillotined before or in Thermidor. The well-known family of the De Parseval were represented by two members among the last of those who suffered; and the only Fermier Général who escaped the guillotine, except one who had fled the country in good time, was Delahante. The equally well-known, and, we believe, related Delahante, who himself wrote upon the Fermiers Généraux, is remembered as the owner of the villa which Lord Rosebery bought from him, and in Paris and Versailles of a fine collection such as might have been found

before the Revolution in the palace of a Fermier Général.

Choix de Livres anciens. Première Partie. By Leo S. Olschki. (Florence, Olschki.)—Mr. Olschki's catalogues are among the most carefully compiled of those which reach us from the Continent, and are among those which bibliographers and collectors preserve for reference. That before us is the first part of a new general catalogue, and forms of itself a substantial volume of 616 pages, enumerating 2,273 books and pamphlets, arranged in alphabetical order, according to subjects. Mr. Olschki does not believe, as did the booksellers of a past generation, in suppressing bibliographical references, on the score of giving away his stock-in-trade. Nearly every entry here is annotated, sometimes with useful details; and many scores of facsimiles are given. Under 'Aérostatique,' for example, we have, in addition to a book in Italian dealing with the earliest attempts at ballooning in Italy, three engravings (all reproduced) issued at Vienna in 1791. The sections dealing with duelling and fencing are particularly full, the greater number of the entries being of Italian publications of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; one of the rarest is a Bull of Clement VII., 1524, in which duelling is severely prohibited. Mr. Olschki's greatest rarity is apparently the 'Libretto De tutta la Nauigazione de Re De Spagna De Le Isole et Terreni Nouamenti Trouati,' 1504 (No. 792), of which the only other known copy is an imperfect one in St. Mark's library at Venice. Mr. Olschki's is marked "Vendu," and is, we presume, the example in the John Carter Brown Library. This is one of the very rarest of Americana—a section, by the way, which forms one of the largest in this Catalogue, extending as it does to over 300 numbers. Among the books printed on vellum is a fine copy of Bonifacius VIII. 'Decretalium Liber VI.' from Fust and Schoeffer's press, 1465, one of the most beautiful monuments of early printing. This is priced at 15,000 fr. The concluding division of the volume is devoted to *incunabula*, which extend from No. 1908 to No. 2273, and include a fine example of the Dante of 1487—in point of fact, the first real illustrated edition of the poet, although the Florentine edition of 1481 contains two or three engravings. Mr. Olschki's bibliographical notes are compiled with great care, and their general accuracy may be trusted.

The Writers' and Artists' Year-Book, 1908 (Black), is before us, and we commend it earnestly to all contributors to the press. It gives details of the things which editors want for their respective papers, and consultation of it will save a great deal of time and labour. There is really no excuse for sending contributions to unsuitable quarters when such a book as this can be procured at a moderate price.

HISTORICAL SOURCES: THEIR NATURE AND USES.

A DEFINITION of the subject-matter of historical study appears to be both simple and desirable. But unless our phrase is very closely guarded, we run the risk of appearing to discuss the vexed definition of history at large. This is certainly not the intention of the present inquiry. It may be readily conceded that the historian can record any fact that bears upon the history of the human race, and it must follow that he will place his own interpretation on this fact. Though the correctness of this interpretation may be a matter of

opinion; even though its presentment may indicate an imperfect method of study, the writer may be assured of a patient hearing. But there is one stipulation that is made by modern science—that the historical fact shall be, as far as possible, a scientific fact. It is not enough that these facts shall be weighed and tested by the most perfect apparatus that the historian's craft has devised. Every possible precaution must also be taken that individual facts are not forthwith discredited by rebutting evidence. Now it has come to be accepted as a general proposition that history, or historical composition, is founded upon facts that are usually derived from historical documents. Therefore, in connexion with historical study and the search for facts which it entails, our attention is forcibly directed to the documents which play such an important part in the whole matter.

These, as we know, are of various aspects and of several eras; but we are here concerned only with the national MSS. of this country. These, again, may be regarded, from the student's point of view, according as they are (1) existent or non-existent, (2) accessible or inaccessible, (3) printed or unprinted. Of the above types it may be remarked that the existent and non-existent documents are equally an unknown quantity. The former must be discovered by approved and laborious methods of research. The latter, which are not necessarily intended to supply material facts, may still possess a scientific value. Thus the student may have occasion to ascertain what documents formerly existed for a given subject, just as it is of importance for the study of comparative anatomy to ascertain the existence and construction of extinct forms.

The accidental or deliberate destruction of documents is, however, a subject that is commonly disregarded, though it is one that is calculated to give rise to serious reflections. The inferences that we are accustomed to make from documents do not depend wholly upon the existing sources apart from their environment. We associate Master Brown with the 'Third Roll' of the twelfth-century Exchequer, although we are ignorant of its real contents. On the other hand, whilst we attach a sentimental value to certain fragments of ancient records which we have discovered through desultory researches, we disregard others which would throw much light on the constitutional procedure of early times. A whole treatise might be written on the subject of these lost sources of history, and the hypotheses that might be based upon their partial evidence can be easily imagined.

It is a commonplace that, by the loss of documents, certain historical sources have been eliminated. This bare statement, however, requires some qualification. A document is only valuable relatively to its importance and its unique character, and the destruction of large masses of documents containing duplicate or trivial information may prove of actual benefit to the student. It is well known, indeed, that the wealth of sources for the later period of European history is viewed with some dismay by writers on historical method, and nothing short of a rigorous selection will enable the student to overcome this congestion of materials. It is essential that this selection should be made intelligently and with a full appreciation of the requirements of posterity. But in the first place, the arrangement of documents is to be regarded as a necessary prelude to their safe custody. The mere mechanical process of sorting will serve as the best protection against the decay which has been the fate of many buried treasures. Their numeration and classification will guard

them from wholesale spoliation or ignorant destruction as well as from undeserved neglect. These administrative questions, to which the continental textbooks attach much importance, do not directly concern the historical student, except so far as they enable him to appreciate the actual or potential value of the sources. In the next place, it is necessary for him to ascertain what documents are accessible and what are not, in order that he may make his dispositions accordingly.

It has been assumed by continental writers that for the most part historical documents are preserved in public institutions. This assumption, however, is scarcely justified in the case of our own national sources. Yet their actual ownership is a small consideration to the practical student, provided that the documents themselves have been carefully preserved and are accessible under reasonable conditions.

Here, as in the preceding aspect of historical research, the student has ever been at the mercy of the *forces majeures* wielded by official bodies and lawful owners. In his negotiations with these irresponsible powers he will assuredly gain nothing by a clamorous insistence on a public right. It is true that the inherent title of the State to control the preservation or disposition of national documents might easily be vindicated. But even if the removal of official documents by former ministers of State could be shown to amount to a public misdemeanour, a sweeping Act of Resumption could not be enforced without recourse to an inquisitorial process that would be not only costly, but also ungracious in view of the facilities afforded by many enlightened owners. Something has, indeed, been done during recent years to encourage the voluntary restitution of official documents or to effect their purchase when exposed for sale. Much more, however, is needed to secure the reversion of these documents to the nation as well as to render them immediately accessible to students; for it is intolerable that permission to examine such documents should be refused, because their value for the purpose of private sale to American or German libraries might be depreciated.

The further consideration as to the form in which the existing documentary sources are available is also to some extent connected with this proprietary consideration. It is well known that the chief agencies whereby, at different times and for distinct purposes, the original documentary sources were produced have been the State departments and the great corporations which employed a similar clerical method. Below these, at a considerable interval, may be placed the muniments of private persons, of whom some few, indeed, deserve special recognition as statesmen or clerks, lawyers or men of business; whilst we must not forget that the literary activity that produced the medieval chronicles was largely applied to the compilation of official records and registers. Now just as the first of these two classes has bequeathed to us a great store of records and official muniments, and the other a miscellaneous mass of documents of varying quality, so, in the course of time, each class has concerned itself with the reproduction of these original sources. It is only natural to expect that the State should take the lead in this enterprise, although it is by no means certain that this lead will be maintained in an age of individual activity. As yet, however, the disparity between the production of printed texts or abstracts of historical documents by the State and private owners, respectively, remains considerable. A

keener competition will be found to proceed from the learned zeal of those who have no vested interests in the subject-matter of their labours—the private workers or learned societies who print all documents within their reach that contain matter of academic interest. And so in one direction we have already reached the climax of the mechanical procedure which gives us printed Law Reports and Parliamentary Papers, by-laws and official forms. In another direction we still complain of an insufficiency of printed matter in the shape of texts and inventories, which constitute the printed sources of history; though in respect of commentaries of various kinds we are perhaps suffering instead from a plethora of materials.

It has often been remarked that earlier historians carried out their preliminary researches at a great disadvantage by comparison with the resources of modern scholarship. This statement is obviously correct, although it should not be forgotten that some of the most valuable of these historical treatises are based upon a unique series of documents which are dealt with exhaustively. Again, some of these early texts must stand in the place of the original document, which is not extant or else is seriously mutilated. On the whole, therefore, the distinction between the printed and inedited sources is still very real. But we have this advantage in dealing with the former, that it is at least possible to account for all the published forms, which have been based, to a greater or less extent, upon documentary evidence. For this we have to thank the authors of the great historical bibliographies of our own time, which have far outdistanced the repertoires of original documents actually available for permanent reference.

The use of the term "Heuristic" to distinguish the method of discovery of the recognized sources of history from the methods of historical analysis and composition is in keeping with the marked tendency to treat history as a science, which has been a frequent subject of discussion in the present day. Whatever the value of such terms may be, any method that will facilitate the discovery of the true sources of history clearly deserves our close attention; for without recourse to such a method the historian is in danger of being carried away by the literary impulse of his art. The result of this is seen in the waste editions and worthless texts which lie scattered through our streets, the wrecks of many able enterprises upon the stubborn rocks of fact. This tendency to evade the preliminary investigations, which we are all agreed should be exhaustive, is probably the result of the necessary refinement which must be made in the definition of history as a science. In collecting the facts which will be used for the purpose of historical composition, we are unable, in most cases, to proceed by actual observation. Instead, we are compelled to infer the facts from the evidence of documents, and so, from the outset, the rigid requirements of scientific study can be dispensed with, and the most conscientious student is rapidly demoralized. It is in vain to urge that, before we proceed to analyze and use the facts that have been distilled from a mass of documents, it is desirable that the whole crop should be gathered, sorted out, and strictly accounted for. The man of letters who has made these quasi-scientific researches is naturally reluctant to spend the best years of his life in this drudgery; and so the documents continue to be taken more or less at random to supply the exigencies of each new occasion.

Nevertheless, the mere discovery of documents connected with any historical period or subject can only possess an importance that is relative to the extent of the whole of the existing sources of information; that is to say, we must not be content to assume that only certain sources are available; far less are we at liberty to limit the scope of our researches at pleasure. We must examine, if we do not utilize, every existing historical document that concerns the period or subject under treatment; and we should, for the purpose of estimating the value of the evidence available, even take into account such documents as are known to have formerly existed. Perhaps this will seem to many a hard saying, but it is one that has been pronounced by high authority, and it might be shown that the requirement has been complied with by a small band of determined students.

But to render his investigations effective it is essential that the student should be able to form some conception of the unknown quantity in the shape of documents that he will have to reckon with. Certainly the most practicable means of arriving at this knowledge is the use of a scientific scheme of classification in which every species of historical document will find a place. But for this purpose it is necessary to include at least the whole body of national documents in our survey, and the magnitude of this undertaking will perhaps explain the want of such a classified list, and the consequent defects of the various "Lists of Authorities" which are prefixed to most modern historical compilations.

The admitted deficiency of repertoires would doubtless be regarded by many learned scholars as a sufficient answer to a plea for more strenuous methods of research. "We must wait," we shall be told, "until these repertoires have been completed." There was a time when editors were accustomed to concern themselves with such codices only as librarians chose to lay upon their tables. That time has long gone by; but those editors would have been justified in their own generation by the want of proper facilities for their work. The time has not yet come when a similar justification will no longer be heard in respect of historical sources; but it approaches speedily. Therefore it behoves those who have influence in such matters to recognize the possibilities of "Heuristic" as a new method of historical research.

HEAD MASTERS' CONFERENCE.

The head masters of the leading Public Schools met in conference this year at Magdalen College School, Oxford, on Friday and Saturday in last week. The place of meeting, no doubt, was responsible for the large number of head masters and guests who accepted the invitation and the hospitality of Mr. C. E. Brownrigg and the authorities of Magdalen.

The agenda list was long, and of more importance than usual; and the heavier items were gone through at the Friday afternoon sitting. These included a resolution of great interest, especially to the many assistant masters who were present as visitors. It may be remembered that in the recent scholastic *cause célèbre* of *Wright v. Zetland* it was made clear by the Court of Appeal that the assistant master had no legal contract with anybody as to his tenure or position. On the motion of Dr. Gray (Bradfield), seconded by Dr. Gow (Westminster), the Board of Education was respectfully requested to take such steps as were necessary to give a satisfactory status to assistant

masters with regard to security of tenure. The resolution was carried *nem. con.*

More contentious ground was touched in a resolution by Dr. Rendall (of Charterhouse)

"deplored the action of the Board of Education as tending by way of administrative regulations and by differentiation of grants (a) to place all Secondary Schools under county or municipal control; and (b) to narrow the methods of religious teaching and worship in such schools within un-denominational limits."

Though all were in agreement as to the desirability of maintaining variety and flexibility in the government of such schools, the second part of the motion, had it not been for the temperate spirit prevailing, seemed likely to arouse the "dismal religious controversies" with which one is familiar. In the interest merely of freedom and variety, after some small verbal amendments, Dr. Rendall's resolution was carried.

The four remaining resolutions were of less importance and provoked less discussion. They were:—

"That this Conference views with regret the burdensome multiplication of forms and returns demanded by the Board of Education at short notice and at inconvenient times from those schools that work under the regulations of the Board," Mr. Williams (Carlisle);

a motion by Mr. A. A. David (Clifton) anticipating with satisfaction the new regulations for bringing the officers' training scheme into operation in place of the old cadet corps system; one by Mr. Waterfield (Cheltenham) suggesting that entrance examinations for Woolwich and Sandhurst should be synchronized as far as possible with the ordinary school-examinations; and the following motion by Mr. S. R. James (Malvern):—

"That this Conference is of opinion that the conditions on which schoolmasters are admitted to Holy Orders should, as far as possible, be uniform in all dioceses, and such as not to discourage men from coming forward as candidates."

At the dinner in the evening in Magdalen College Hall, among several excellent speeches, the outstanding feature was a remarkable one by Mr. T. E. Page (Charterhouse), pointing out that the profession should drop their attitude of isolation and competition, and unite to secure such conditions as will prompt the right kind of men to come forward.

The morning sitting on Saturday was devoted to what may with strictness be termed educational points. Dr. Burge (Winchester) proposed, and the Rev. the Hon. E. Lyttelton (Eton) seconded, a resolution

"that undue pressure is put upon boys at preparatory schools by the requirements of scholarship examinations at the Public Schools, and that in the interests of education the remedy lies in lowering the standard of knowledge required in the Greek language."

After a lively debate the general sense seemed to be that to lower the standard in one subject would not lessen the competition, but only direct it into other and possibly less desirable channels, and the motion was lost.

Dr. Upcott (Christ's Hospital), in a motion approving in the main of the conclusions of the Report of the Committee of the British Association (Education Section), failed to persuade the Conference that there were not too many contentious details in the Report to admit of comprehensive approval.

The last motion, by Dr. Flecker (Dean Close School, Cheltenham), was admittedly in the nature of an attempt to "draw" Dr. Rouse on the conversational teaching of Greek. It ran:—

"That this Conference is of opinion that the

teaching of Latin and Greek should not aim at enabling boys to speak those languages."

Mr. David (Clifton) seconded. Dr. Rouse, in reply, explained that he had never intended it to be supposed that his aim was to enable boys to speak those languages, but he wished them to study with understanding the great works of literature; what he had maintained and did maintain was that, as a method (not the method) of instruction towards this end, conversation in the languages afforded most useful and lively method of drill. He therefore suggested that Dr. Flecker should withdraw his motion. This suggestion was acceded to; and the 1907 Conference closed, after a cordial vote of thanks had been passed to the Head Master of Magdalen College School for his hospitality.

LORD HOWE'S SHAKSPEAREANA SALE.

MESSRS. SOTHEBY, WILKINSON & HODGE sold on Saturday last, Lord Howe's collection of first and early quartos and the first four folios of Shakespeare's plays. There were thirty-five quartos, which included the doubtful plays; the Hamlets of 1604, 1611, and 1637; Henry IV, Part I, of 1613 and 1632; Henry V, of 1608 and 1617; Henry VI, (Part III), of 1600; Henry VI, Parts II.-III., of 1619; King John, of 1622; King Lear, of 1608; Richard II, of 1598; Richard III, of 1597, 1629, and 1634; Love's Labour's Lost of 1631; Merchant of Venice of 1600 and 1652; Merry Wives of Windsor of 1619 and 1630; Midsummer Night's Dream of 1600; Othello of 1622; Pericles of 1609 and 1619; Romeo and Juliet of 1599 and 1637; and Titus Andronicus of 1611. The doubtful plays included Cromwell of 1602 (222.) and 1613 (40.); Locrine, 1595 (120.); Oldcastle, 1600 (57.); The Puritaine, 1607 (72.); The Two Noble Kinsmen, 1634 (62.); and The Yorkshire Tragedie, 1619 (71.). The Folios produced the following sums: First, 2,025.; Second, 98.; Third, 525.; Fourth, 82.; Ben Jonson's Volpone, 1607, produced 27.; and Every Man out of his Humour, 1600, 70. The first 28 quartos were purchased *en bloc* by an American collector, who withdrew 14 lots, leaving the others to be put up for sale, those lots sold realizing the following sums: Hamlet, 1611, 400.; Hamlet, 1637, 60.; Henry V, 1608, 104.; Henry VI, Parts II.-III., 1619, 120.; King John, 1622, 60.; King Lear, 1608, 200.; King Richard III, 1629, 115.; King Richard III, 1634, 68.; Love's Labour's Lost, 1631, 201.; Merry Wives of Windsor, 1619, 160.; Pericles, 1619, 65.; Romeo and Juliet, 1599, 165.; Romeo and Juliet, 1637, 40.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

ENGLISH.

Theology.

Bennett (W. H.), *The Religion of the Post-Exilic Prophets*, 6/- net. In the Literature and Religion of Israel Series. Harris (M. B.), *Some Dangers and our Defences*, 6d. net. Herkless (J.) and Harvey (R. K.), *The Archbishops of St. Andrews*, Vol. I., 7/6 net. Schubert (H. von), *Outlines of Church History*, 10/6 net. Translated from the third German edition by M. A. Canney, with a supplementary chapter by Miss Alice Gardner. In the Theological Translation Library.

Fine Art and Archaeology.

Gibney (Sir Walter) and Cuming (E. D.), *George Morland: his Life and Works*, Ordinary Edition, 20/- net; Edition du Luxe, 42/- net. Masterpieces in Colour: *Fra Angelico*, by J. Mason; Rembrandt, by Josef Israels, 1/- net each. Moss (Fletcher), *The Fourth Book of Pilgrimages to Old Homes*, 2/- net. There are 242 illustrations by James Watt, and most of them are excellent. No. I deals with 'Pilgrimages in Cheshire and Shropshire'; No. II, with 'Pilgrimages to Old Homes on the Welsh Border'; and No. III, with 'Pilgrimages to Old Homes.' *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, Part 76.

Poetry and Drama.

Campbell (T.), *Complete Poetical Works*, 2/. Oxford Edition, with notes by J. Leslie Robertson. Fardusi, *Shah-Namah*, 15/- net. Translated from the Persian by A. Rogers. McKinsey (F.), *A Rose of the Old Régime*, and other Poems of Home-life and Childhood. Penguin (M.), *The Flame*, 1/- net. A pantomime in one act. Shelley (P. B.), *Complete Poetical Works*, 2/. Oxford Edition, with textual notes by T. Hutchinson, and including materials never before printed in any edition of the poem.

Simpson (H.), *Lotos*, 5/- net. A fantasy. Sutro (A.), *John Glayde's Honour*, 2/6 net. A play in four acts.

Philosophy.

Land of Eternity: *Amar Bhumika Discourses*, by Sri Aganya Gura Paramahansa, 3/- net.

Political Economy.

Banking Almanac and Directory, 1908, 15/- net. Edited by R. H. Inglis Palgrave, with Diary Supplement. Bax (E. B.), *Essays in Socialism, New and Old*, 6d. Economic Journal, December, 5/- net.

History and Biography.

Marquis (T. G.), *Presidents of the United States*: Pierce to McKinley, 5/- net.

Norie (W. Drummond), *The Life and Adventures of Prince Charles Edward Stuart*, Vol. IV., 7/6 net. This volume, which has numerous illustrations, maps, and facsimiles, completes the work. For former notice see *Athen.*, June 11, 1904, p. 744.

Walker (E. A.), *Old England: Sketches of English History*, 3/- net. Third Edition.

Geography and Travel.

Tangerine: a Child's Letters from Morocco, 8/- net. The imagined impressions of a little girl during a short visit to the chief coast town of Morocco, contained in letters written to her uncle. Edited by T. Ernest Waltham, with 78 illustrations.

Thomson (W. H.), *The Log of a Liner*, 6/-

Sports and Pastimes.

Ruff's Guide to the Turf, Winter Edition, 7/6

Philosophy.

Garnsey (E. R.), *Epitome of Horace*, 5/- net. In the form of a critical letter.

Modern Language Teaching, December, 6d.

New English Dictionary on Historical Principles: Polygenous-Premious, 7/6. Part of Vol. VII, edited by Dr. J. A. H. Murray.

School-Books.

Pitt Press Series: *Hugo's Selected Poems*, edited by H. W. Eve; *Spenser's Fowre Hymnes*, edited by L. Winstanley, 2/- net each.

Science.

Ashe (S. W.), *Electric Railways Theoretically and Practically Treated*, Vol. II., 10/- net. Deals with engineering preliminaries and direct-current sub-stations.

Bartsch (P.), *The West American Mollusks of the Genus Triphoria*. Reprinted from the *Proceedings of the U.S. National Museum*.

Bureau of American Ethnology, Twenty-Fifth Annual Report, 1903-4.

Hudson (R.), *Two Princes of Science*: Thomas Alva Edison, Guglielmo Marconi. With 8 illustrations.

Jordan (D. S.), and Richard-on (R. E.), *On a Collection of Fishes from Echigo, Japan*. Another reprint from the *Proceedings of the U.S. National Museum*.

Medical Directory, 1908, 14/- net.

Science Year-Book, Diary, Directory, and Scientific Summary, 1908, 5/- net.

Williamson (E. B.), *The Dragonflies (Odonata) of Burma and Lower Siam*. A third reprint from the *Proceedings of the U.S. National Museum*.

Year-Book of the Scientific and Learned Societies of Great Britain and Ireland, 7/6 net. A record of the work done in science, literature, and art during the session 1906-7.

Juvenile Books.

Horsley (R.), *In the Grip of the Hawk*, 2/. A story of the Maori wars. Illustrated by W. Herbert Holloway.

Temple (U.), *When Mother was in India*, 2/. Illustrated by F. Gardner.

Fiction.

Davidson (E.), *Wrecked by a Brother's Lie*, 10/- net. A history of the living representatives of an impoverished old noble Italian family.

Dickens (C.), *Our Mutual Friend*, 2 vols.; *The Uncommercial Traveller*, 10/- net each. In the National Edition.

Kight (L.), *An Englishman in America*, 1/-

Kipling (R.), *The Jungle Book*, 5/- net. Pocket Edition. For former notice see *Athen.*, June 16, 1894, p. 666.

Marlowe (F.), *The Secret of the Sandhills*, 6/-

Mathers (H.), *Comin' thro' the Rye*. Coloured illustrations by A. A. Dixon. For former notice see *Athen.*, July 3, 1875, p. 16.

O'Mahony (N. T.), *Una's Enterprise*, 2/-.

Parker (Sir Gilbert), *The Translation of a Savage*, 7d. New Edition, in Nelson's Library. For former notice see *Athen.*, June 9, 1894, p. 733.

General Literature.

Appointments Gazette, December, 1/-. The Journal of the Cambridge University Appointments Board.

Catholic Who's Who and Year Book, 1908, 3/- net. Edited by Sir F. C. Burnand.

Dickensian, Vol. III., 4/- net.

Greyfriar, December, 1/-. A Chronicle in black and white by Carthusians.

Heywood (N. A.), *Oddities of the Law*, 2/- net. A series of short essays, dealing in a popular manner with witches, benefit of clergy, deadheads, &c.

Larkins (W. Ashley), *Stars of London, and How They got their Light*, 3/-

Lawson (W. R.), *John Bull and his Schools*, 5/- net. A book for parents, ratepayers, and men of business.

Matheson's Handbook for Investors, 1908, 2/6 net.

Post Office London Directory for 1908, with County Suburbs, 40/-

Scotia, Martinmas, 1/- net. The journal of the St. Andrew Society.

Stewart (B.), *Active Service Pocket-Book*, 4/- net. Third Edition.

Webster's Royal Red Book, January, 1908, 5/- net.

Writers' and Artists' Year-Book, 1908, 1/- net. A directory for writers, artists, and photographers.

Pamphlets.

Banerjee (S. B.), *Misunderstood*, and other Sketches of India Life, 8d. Reprinted from various magazines.

Biddlecombe (A.), *Thoughts on Natural Philosophy*, with a New Reading of Newton's First Law, 9d.

Creighton (L.), *Women's Work for the Church and for the State*. No. 7 of Pan-Anglican Papers. Livingstone College, Leyton, E., Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the Year 1906-7. London County Council, Indication of Houses of Historical Interest, Part XVI, 1d. Ryle (Bishop J. C.), *Thoughts on Prayer*, 4d. net. Second Edition.

F O R E I G N.

Theology.

Heinrich (C. F. G.), *Der literarische Charakter der neutestamentlichen Schriften*, 2m. 40.

Prat (F.), *La Théologie de St. Paul*, Part I, 6fr.

Fine Art and Archaeology.

Corpus Inscriptionum Etruscarum, Vol. II. Section I. Part I., 30m.

Musil (A.), *Arabia Petrea*: Vol. II. Edom, Part II., 12m. 80.

Waetzoldt (W.), *Die Kunst des Porträts*, 12m.

Philosophy.

Cassirer (E.), *Das Erkenntnisproblem in der Philosophie u. Wissenschaft der neueren Zeit*, Vol. II, 15m.

History and Biography.

Arnows (P.), *Pierre Legrand, un Parlementaire français de 1876 à 1895*, 7fr. 50.

Courteau (P.), *Blaise de Monluc, Historien*, 12fr. A critical study of the 'Commentaries.'

Kalt (G.), *Geschiedenis der Nederlandsche Letterkunde*, Part III, 6fr. 50.

Geography and Travel.

Felice (K. de), *La Basse-Normandie: Étude de Géographie régionale*, 12fr.

Guthé (H.), *Palastina*, 4m.

Philosophy.

Festschrift zur 49 Versammlung deutscher Philologen und Schulmänner in Basel im Jahre 1907, 15m.

General Literature.

Wigand (C.), *Umkultur: vier Kapitel Deutschtum*. The last of the four essays gives the title to the book.

** All Books received at the Office up to Wednesday Morning will be included in this List unless previously noted. Publishers are requested to state prices when sending Books.

Literary Gossip.

The *Journal of the African Society* for January will contain some notes by Major Meldon on 'The Sudanese in Uganda.' This paper is of interest as illustrating the process of dispersal and intermixture which has appreciably modified the characteristics of many African peoples. Other items are 'Notes on Southern Rhodesia Ruins in the Victoria District,' by Mr. J. H. Venning, whose independent investigations have led him to endorse Dr. Mac Iver's conclusions; 'The Okpoto and Igara Tribes' (of the Lower Niger), by Capt. Byng-Hall; 'A Note on a Possible Specific for Blackwater Fever,' by Sir H. H. Johnston; and 'Native Affairs in South Africa,' by Miss A. Werner.

'BOOK-PRICES CURRENT' is to be issued in future in bi-monthly parts, in order to get the information concerning sales into the hands of booksellers and collectors as early as possible after the sales have taken place. The annual volumes will be published as usual, apart from this arrangement.

PROF. JOSEPH WRIGHT AND MRS. WRIGHT have finished an 'Old English Grammar,' which Mr. Frowde will publish in the student's series of historical and comparative grammars planned and edited by Prof. Wright. The authors believe that the new volume is the most complete grammar written in our own language, and the first to deal with the subject in a strictly scientific manner, and that it contains all that the ordinary student will require to know, in order to gain a comprehensive knowledge of Old English and the elements of comparative Germanic grammar.

THE annual general meeting of the English Association will be held at University College, Gower Street, on Friday and Saturday, January 10th and 11th. The Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, President of the Association, will take the chair at the lecture to be given by Canon Beeching on 'A Modern Critical Poet: William Watson,' and also at the dinner. There will be discussions on the teaching of English in Secondary Schools, opened by Mr. J. H. Fowler and Miss G. Clement (Prof. W. Raleigh in the chair), and on the teaching of Shakespeare, opened by Prof. F. S. Boas (Mr. Sidney Lee in the chair).

THE ENGLISH ASSOCIATION has just issued a leaflet entitled 'A Short List of Books on English Literature from the Beginning to 1832, for the Use of Teachers.'

THE REV. S. BARING-GOULD has been engaged by Sir Charles Brooke, the present Rajah of Sarawak, to write his life.

SIR SPENSER ST. JOHN is thinking of publishing essays on Shakespeare and his works, edited from the MSS. and notes of a deceased relative.

MR. CHARLES OSBORNE has been entrusted with the task of composing a biography of the late Baroness Burdett-Coutts.

THE ERAGNY PRESS having accepted a commission from the Société des Cent Bibliophiles of Paris for the production of an exclusive edition of 'Salamon and Balkis,' by Gerard de Nerval, the issue of the Herrick songs has been unavoidably postponed, so that there is still an opportunity for intending subscribers to send in their names. The 'Salamon' will be the most richly decorated book yet issued by the Press. It is to be regretted that no example of it will be retained in England, as even the original blocks and drawings are to be handed over to the club.

THE authorized translation of 'The Memoirs of Prince Urussov,' which will be made by Mr. Herman Rosenthal, will be published by Messrs. Harper & Brothers early next year. Prince Urussov was Governor of Bessarabia in the critical period of 1903-4.

MR. G. J. GRAY has prepared a second edition of his 'Bibliography of the Works of Sir Isaac Newton,' originally issued in 1888 in an edition of 120 copies. Many important additions have been made which have extended the work to twice the size of the original. The volume will be published early in January by Messrs. Bowes & Bowes, of Cambridge.

THIS week's *Notes and Queries* contains some important discussion of the secret intelligence from Tilsit, which has often engaged our attention. There is an interesting note concerning Colin Alexander Mackenzie by a relative of his. Each emperor, it may be recalled, was to be attended by a single guard, who did not know French. Napoleon had a German with him. Mackenzie knew both Russian and French, and it is now

stated that he attended Alexander and posed as a Cossack, having got hold of the uniform of the chosen soldier by means of gold and liquor.

MESSRS. COLLIER are issuing the first volume of the new year, 'The Cruise of the Port Kingston,' by Mr. W. Ralph Hall Caine.

MESSRS. GEORGE PHILIP & SON will shortly publish a new book on manual training entitled 'Modelling in Relief,' being lessons showing how to model maps and objects from nature, by Miss Dora Pearce, Principal of Streatham Hill School and Kindergarten.

AT the annual meeting of the Scottish Text Society, held this week in Edinburgh, a strong appeal was made by Mr. David Murray and Mr. J. Hepburn Millar (author of 'A Literary History of Scotland') for the preservation of the Scots language. The report stated that for the coming year the Society has in hand three volumes. The concluding volume of the text of Wyntoun is ready, and will shortly be published: and the greater portion of the concluding volume of the text of Henryson is in type. The edition of the Makculloch and Gray MSS. undertaken by Mr. George Stevenson is in an advanced state of preparation; while progress is being made with the text of 'John of Ireland,' the copying and collation of which are expected to be finished within a year.

MRS. M. A. HUTTON, whose rendering of the great Irish epic 'The Tain' has just been published by Messrs. Maunsell & Co., delivered a lecture on the subject of the poem before the National Literary Society in Dublin last week. Having referred to the two recensions known as the L. L. version and the L. U. version—the former of which she considered as the more artistic, and the latter as the more realistic version of the tale—Mrs. Hutton dealt with the poem as a whole, and expressed the opinion that it was the most important document in early Gaelic literature, and the principal source of information as to the life of the extra-Roman Celt.

SCIENCE

The Corpuscular Theory of Matter. By J. J. THOMSON. (Constable & Co.)

PROF. J. J. THOMSON tells us in his Preface that this book represents his lectures before the Royal Institution in 1906 in an expanded form; and those who heard the lectures in question will be pleased to notice how much they have gained in clearness and arrangement in the process of expansion. When read with the author's former books on 'Electricity and Matter' and 'The Conduction of Electricity through Gases,' they form a worthy exposition of the theory of the supporters of the electronic doctrine in its extreme form. This is, as readers of *The Athenæum* will know, that all matter

on final analysis consists of particles of negative electricity.

We are informed at the beginning of the present book that in physics a theory of matter is a policy rather than a creed, and that its function, apart from the co-ordination of phenomena, is to stimulate and direct experiment. This is sound teaching, but we are somewhat disappointed to notice the small part that experiment plays in the construction of the present theory. Apart from one new experiment, to be presently described, Prof. J. J. Thomson here confines himself to arguing how things must happen if his main proposition, as given above, be true; and the arguments by which he attempts to prove this depend much more upon mathematical analysis than upon ascertained fact. This should not, however, daunt the general reader. Except, perhaps, a rather abstruse discussion of Fourier's theorem taken from Lord Rayleigh's papers in *The Philosophical Magazine*, there is little in the book that cannot be understood by any one of ordinary education, and nothing that will not be intelligible to every one accustomed to the use of equations. For this we are duly grateful, and we are glad to see that the idea put forward with some violence in the last decade, that physics was a subject upon which only mathematicians had a right to be heard, shows signs of weakening. After all, it has been experiment rather than argument that has brought our knowledge of nature to its present state, and to insist on mathematical expression for all the facts thus ascertained would be about as reasonable as to demand that all textbooks on physics should be printed in shorthand.

The new experiment contributed by Prof. J. J. Thomson to our store of ascertained facts concerning electrons is as follows. Taking the "canalstrahlen," as he prefers to call them—or, in other words, the positive rays escaping through the holes in the pierced cathode of a highly exhausted Crookes tube through which an intense discharge is passing—he deflects them first by a magnetic and then by an electrostatic field, and by so doing contrives to deduce their velocity and the ratio of their charge to their mass. The results may be given in his own words:—

"These investigations on the properties of the carriers of positive electricity prove: (1) that whereas in gases at very low pressures the carriers of negative electricity have an exceedingly small mass, only about $\frac{1}{1000}$ of that of the hydrogen atom, the mass of the carriers of positive electricity is never less than that of the hydrogen atom; (2) that while the carrier of negative electricity, the corpuscle, has the same mass from whatever source it may be derived, the mass of the carrier of the positive charge may be variable: thus in hydrogen the smallest of the positive particles seems to be the hydrogen atom, while in helium, at not too low a pressure, the carrier of the positive electricity is partly, at any rate, the helium atom. All the evidence at our disposal shows that even in gases at the lowest pressures the positive electricity is always carried by bodies at least as large as atoms; the negative electricity, on the other hand,

is under the same circumstances carried by corpuscles, bodies with a constant and exceedingly small mass."

His further deductions are that the number of corpuscles (or negative electrons) in an atom of any element is a multiple, and not a large one, of the atomic weight of the element, and that positive electricity is made up of units, which are independent of the nature of the substance which is the seat of the electrification.

Passing from the region of experiment to that of pure theory, he next examines the origin of the mass of the corpuscle, which he declares to be purely electrical, that is to say, entirely derived from the charge it bears. This leads him to the curious conclusions that the corpuscular mass

"has its origin in the region round the corpuscle, and is not resident in the corpuscle itself; hence, from our point of view, each corpuscle may be said to extend throughout the whole universe, a result which is interesting in connection with the dogma that two bodies cannot occupy the same space";

and later, that when the corpuscle moves with a velocity equal to that of light "[its] magnetic force is zero everywhere except in the equatorial plane, where it is infinite." He then examines the theory of the conduction of electricity in metals, a process which he sums up as the "drifting of negatively electrified corpuscles against the current," and balances for some time between the idea that the corpuscles are in this case wandering or free after many collisions, and the rival notion that they operate by springing at once from one atom to another. Finally—although this is the only point in the book where he leaves us in any doubt as to his actual opinion—he seems to declare in favour of the theory last given, declaring, if we read him rightly, that the first leads to a contradiction in terms. The remainder of the book is occupied with a discussion of the arrangement of the corpuscles within the atom, wherein he does not move far from the analogy of the floating magnets already mentioned in *The Athenæum* (see particularly Nos. 4039 and 4041); and another upon the number of the corpuscles in an atom, which he again declares to be equal to the number of units of positive electricity, and proportional to the atomic weight.

If now we come to estimate the value of this theorizing, we are first of all struck by its resolute avoidance of the main points of the opposing case. Many authors, both here and on the Continent, have declared their belief that most material phenomena can be explained on the hypothesis that matter would be found on final analysis to be composed of vortex-rings in the ether or universal medium, and that its apparent stability is not necessarily greater than that of the vortex-rings that appear in smoke, or that are produced on a larger scale in such phenomena as waterspouts. With regard to this, Prof. Thomson merely declares that "the simplicity of the assumptions of the vortex-atom theory are [sic] somewhat dearly purchased at the cost of the mathematical difficulties which are met with in

its development; and for many purposes a theory whose consequences are easily followed is preferable to one which is more fundamental, but also more unwieldy."

Yet we do not think that his theory can be fitly described as merely unwieldy; and the present writer confesses that he has not found Prof. Thomson's conception of an atom as resembling "a large sphere connected by vortex filaments with a very small one, the large sphere corresponding to the positive electrification, the small one to the negative," at all easy to follow; while the Professor's assumption of the existence of such a doublet, the smaller element of which may, in certain not altogether hypothetical circumstances, fill the universe, is more fundamental, perhaps, but less credible, than the main assumption of the rival theory. At the same time, it must be said in fairness that Prof. Thomson answers in detail the objections based on the Hall effect and the varying nature of chemical valency that have been more than once urged in these columns against his principal thesis. Although his conclusions do not convince us, they follow logically from his premises.

Generally, Prof. Thomson's book is a sound and well-reasoned exposition of the case that he supports, and probably represents as good a defence of it as can be made at present. While we are free to believe that the constitution of matter, if mankind ever succeeds in obtaining a knowledge of it, will turn out to be less complicated than is here suggested, none can deny the ability and moderation with which the Professor's views are put forward. We have noticed one or two misprints, such as the substitution of "X" for Alpha rays, and turning of the usual abbreviation for centimetres into "em"; and the scanty index is of very little use.

RESEARCH NOTES.

A PAPER by Madame Curie (see these Notes in *Athenæum*, No. 4170) on the effect of gravitation on the emanation of radium was published in the September *Comptes-Rendus* of the Académie des Sciences with a misprint which made one of the principal experiments there explained unintelligible. It is now republished in a corrected form in the current number of *Le Radium*, and shows apparently that what is known as induced radio-activity may be due to a thin layer of highly radio-active moisture. Pierre Curie discovered some seven years ago that the emanation of radium behaved like a heavy gas, and always settled in time at the bottom of the receiver containing it. Madame Curie has now carried the study of this phenomenon further by exposing several pairs of metal plates, arranged some vertically and some horizontally in a bell-shaped receiver, to a stream of emanation admitted through the top of the bell. In these circumstances the inner surfaces of the metal plates showed induced radio-activity after two or three days' exposure, the activity of the upper surface of the lower member of each horizontal pair being much greater than that of the upper plate. At first Madame Curie thought that this gravitation of the emanation towards the bottom of the receiver might be due to agglomeration of the gas round the

particles of dust floating within it; but when the receiver was exhausted and air admitted after filtration through glass-wool, the same phenomenon reappeared. Then the receiver was again exhausted, and different gases, such as carbonic acid and hydrogen, were admitted after being carefully dried. The induced radio-activity then failed to manifest itself, and the same effect followed the establishment of as high a vacuum as could be produced. Then a small quantity of gas charged with water-vapour was introduced, and the phenomenon at once reappeared. Exact measurements are promised later, but at present Madame Curie seems to have proved her point.

In this month's number of *The Philosophical Magazine* Prof. Rutherford goes at length over the researches into the origin of radium that have been in progress for some time (see *Athenæum*, Nos. 4157 and 4166). He agrees with Prof. Boltwood that radium is produced from another substance, and that this substance is normally present with actinium, but shows by a long series of experiments that the active deposit of actinium does not change directly into radium. He shows also that this new substance can be separated by chemical means from both actinium and radium, and that it is impossible to say at present whether it has any "direct genetic connexion" with actinium or not. At the same time he is clear that the amount of radium in any mineral is directly proportional to the amount of uranium it contains, and quotes some observations made by himself jointly with Prof. Boltwood last year, from which it appears that, for every gramme of uranium in a mineral, there is present 3.8×10^{-7} grammes of radium. But the amount of actinium in minerals is also proportional, as Prof. Boltwood has observed, to the amount of uranium they contain, and Prof. Rutherford inclines to the view that, while the new substance is a product coming between uranium and radium, actinium has no direct connexion with it. We therefore have uranium probably producing actinium, and certainly producing the new substance (which Prof. Boltwood would call ionium), which is the immediate parent of radium.

The emanations from radium and actinium respectively give off, after some lapse of time—or, if the statement be preferred, are partly transformed into—helium. The other highly radio-active metal thorium has, however, till now appeared to be a stranger to this phenomenon, and Prof. Boltwood has argued that when helium is discovered in a mineral, it must come from the presence of either uranium or radium. Prof. Julius Thomsen (of Copenhagen) discovered nine years ago in Greenland a mineral containing many rare earths, which on being heated liberated twenty cubic centimetres of helium per kilogramme, and of this he has lately sent a supply to the Hon. R. J. Strutt. Mr. Strutt announces in the current *Proceedings* of the Royal Society that he has carefully tested the sample sent him, and finds in it only the smallest trace of radium, but that a solution of it gives an abundant quantity of the emanation of thorium. He therefore "regards it as entirely certain that the helium in this mineral has not been generated *in situ* by uranium or radium," and "has no hesitation in connecting it with the presence of thorium." Hence one, at any rate, of the final products of the three most radio-active substances occurring in nature—i.e., radium, actinium, and thorium—is found to be helium.

Is there any other? Some years ago it seemed evident to Prof. Rutherford and other

physicists that one of the final products of the radio-active metals just mentioned might turn out to be lead. Profs. Elster and Geitel, however, who have always taken a conservative tone with regard to radio-active phenomena, last year showed that the high radio-activity of lead was probably due to the presence of some impurity and not to any intrinsic quality of the metal; and Prof. McLennan (of Toronto) has followed this up by some experiments mentioned by him in the number of *The Philosophical Magazine* referred to above. By examining cylinders made of lead which has been for some years in use (including an old drain-pipe), he has succeeded in showing that the ionization of the air enclosed in them varies with the different samples from 23 ions per centimetre per second to 160, which is, according to him, too wide a variation to be due to anything else than the presence of some active impurity. There seems therefore some chance that the tangled skein of radio-active phenomena may soon be unwound, and that their arrangement may be much more simple than has hitherto been imagined.

M. Jean Becquerel also contributes to the November number of *Le Radium* his recent experiments on anomalous dispersion in crystals. He found that, under the influence of a fall in temperature, the absorption bands given by crystals of the rare earths are slightly displaced in the spectrum, and that their width varies in proportion to the square root of the absolute temperature. He claims that the experiments he speaks of enabled him to establish that the spectrum in the cases in question is furrowed by black oblique fringes which are much broken up near to and within the absorption bands; and that he was thus able to measure not only the width of the bands, but also at different temperatures the variation of the birefringence. The knowledge of the refraction, he adds, due to an assemblage of insulating electrons all contributing to the production of the same absorption band, allows us to calculate the dielectric constant of these electrons, and to evaluate, with the aid of the information given by magneto-optic phenomena, the total charge and the total mass per unit of volume of the electron vibrating at the same moment. The charges found are, he tells us, of the order of 10^{-5} electromagnetic units, and the masses of the order of 10^{-12} to 10^{-13} . On the supposition that the charge of each electron is equal to the charge of one gaseous ion (10^{-20}), the number of electrons must be of the order of 10^{14} to 10^{15} , and must be very small compared with the number of molecules. The upshot of this is that he considers it likely that exchanges of electrons take place between the molecules, and he asks whether the variability of the number of insulating electrons under the influence of changes of temperature is not linked with the variation of electric conductivity.

Two other papers in the Royal Society's *Current Proceedings* deserve passing mention. One is Mr. Aston's article on a new dark space which he has discovered round the cathode in a Crookes tube containing either helium or hydrogen. He regards this as "the distance through which the electrons fall in order to attain sufficient energy to ionize the gas by collision with its molecules." The other, which is in abstract only, is by Dr. Drysdale. He seems to have experimented with sources of high illumination such as the white light from the Nernst filament and the arc light only, and to have found about 0.12 watt per candle-power for the first-named, and 0.08 per candle for the second. As he says that an ideal

source of white light should give us about 10 candles per watt, and a monochromatic yellow-green source not quite 17, this makes our existing means of lighting not so wasteful as has been supposed.

Much good work has lately been done in the anatomy (comparative and otherwise) of the brain and nervous centres. Thus Prof. Edinger (of Berlin) has shown that the grey matter of the cortex—or, as he prefers to call it, the *pallium*—does not exist among the bony fishes, and makes its first appearance among the amphibia and reptiles. The first rudiment of it is, oddly enough, in connexion with the olfactory nerve alone, but begins to be more complicated in the birds, among which it is connected with the optic nerve also. Among the mammals it receives the addition of an auditory and a tactile *pallium*, and the whole forepart of the brain increases rapidly by the formation of what are thought to be zones of association in the cortex interspersed with the zones of projection, and the development of the corpus callosum linking the two hemispheres. At this point it begins to form convolutions.

The light which this throws upon the physical machinery of thought is still largely a matter of speculation. Prof. Flechsig, who has gone thoroughly into the matter, believed some years ago that two-thirds of the cortex were occupied with zones or centres of association which received impressions, but sent no direct orders, operating upon the body by way only of the sensory-motor zones, with which they were connected by both centripetal and centrifugal fibres. In these centres of association he placed the memory, and considered them to be "the intellectual centres and the true organs of thought." This conclusion has been hotly denied of late years, especially by Prof. Bianchi and Prof. Vogt, who assert that they find fibres of projection, or lines by which orders are given, throughout the cortex, the only difference being that there are fewer of them in the zones of association than elsewhere. Prof. Flechsig has therefore resumed his studies, taking as his basis the fact that the nervous fibres do not receive their sheath of myeline or fatty substance all at once, but develop it gradually. From the anatomy of 56 brains of infants from 5 to 13 months (the intra- and extra-uterine life being reckoned together), he thinks he can now show that the myelinization of the nervous fibres begins in the fibres of projection which link the grey matter of the brain with the sensory organs of the periphery, and that it is only later—and especially after birth—that the fibres of the zones of association receive their sheath. He admits in part his adversaries' contention that fibres of projection are to be found even in the last named, but maintains that everywhere the sensory spheres begin by storing up the excitations coming to them from without before acquiring the power of responding to them by action. His conclusions are still combated by Prof. Vogt.

Dr. Pierre Marie has lately challenged one of the weakest conclusions of Broca as to the centres of intelligence in the brain, which asserts that there is a region which concerns itself exclusively with verbal images, or more particularly with written as opposed to spoken words. Is it to be believed, Dr. Marie asks, that in the days when few persons could write this centre was either non-existent or dormant, and that it has only developed during the spread of education in the last century? To this question Dr. Grasset, and others reply that this is quite credible, especially when we notice that among persons

attacked by motor aphasia the general intelligence soon suffers, but in a very irregular way, and that a lesion of the language centre of Broca on the left side of the brain affects the speech of right-handed people only, and vice versa. Excellent summaries of this and of the views of Prof. Edinger and Prof. Flechsig are given in M. Lagesse's annual review of anatomy in the current number of the *Revue Générale des Sciences*.

F. L.

PROF. JANSSEN.

FULL of years and honours, the great astronomer and physicist M. Pierre Jules César Janssen passed away from us at Meudon last Monday, the 23rd inst., at eighty-four. Born at Paris on the 22nd of February, 1824, he took the degree of Doctor of Science there in 1860, and a few years afterwards was made Professor of Physics at the Ecole spéciale d'Architecture.

Probably no man ever took part in more scientific expeditions (many of them to distant regions) than he. The first was to Peru in 1857 for magnetic observations, but this was marred by malarial fever. In 1861 the Academy of Sciences sent him to Italy to study the telluric lines of the solar spectrum, which occupied some time. His dramatic exclamation, whilst observing the spectral lines of the sun's prominences during the total eclipse in India in 1868, that he would see them without an eclipse, is well known—also his subsequent success in doing so, almost at the same time that Sir Norman Lockyer accomplished the same object in England. Sir William Huggins had, indeed, already suggested the possibility of this. Shut up in Paris during the siege in 1870, M. Janssen managed to escape from the city in a balloon, and proceeded to Africa to observe the eclipse which was total in Algiers on the 22nd of December. In 1874 he observed the transit of Venus in Japan, and the total eclipse of 1883 on Caroline Island.

Since 1875 he had been Director of the Astrophysical Observatory at Meudon, in the department of Seine-et-Oise, where his chief attention was devoted to the study of the solar constitution. He was elected an Associate of the Royal Astronomical Society of London in 1872, and was awarded the Rumford Medal of the Royal Society in 1877. It will be noticed that his birth took place in the same year as that of Lord Kelvin.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL NUMISMATIC.—Dec. 19.—Sir John Evans, President, in the chair.—Mr. Frederick A. Harrison exhibited specimens of the Roman Republican libra as, triens, and quadrans; and also a piece of the æs rude.—Mr. F. A. Walters showed a sestertius of Antoninus Pius having on the reverse Britannia seated, holding a spear, and resting her arm on a shield; across the field BRITAN, and around IMPERATOR II. This coin came from the Huxtable, Allen, and Mackerell collections.—The President exhibited a medal of Oscar II. of Sweden issued by the Swedish Numismatic Society and commemorating his jubilee, September 18th, 1897; and Sir Augustus Prevost a series of silver, nickel, and bronze coins struck by the United States of America for the Philippine Islands in 1903.—Dr. Headlam read a paper entitled 'Some Notes on Sicilian Coins,' in which he described an unpublished variety of a Syracusean tetradrachm with the four-horse chariot and a female head (Persephone), the obverse type showing great resemblance to similar coins of Gela. In the exergue on the obverse is an olive-branch; and as this symbol is also found on contemporary pieces of Gela, Dr. Headlam suggested that it might refer to the truce between Gela and Camarina in B.C. 421, in which

other cities of Sicily joined, amongst which was Syracuse. The writer also discussed the date of the signed tetradrachms of Syracuse, and was of opinion that the beginning of the period of fine art and of signed coins should be put about the year 420. He referred to the great resemblance between the coins of Syracuse, Gela, and Leontini struck during the tyranny of Gela. These have a uniform obverse type consisting of a quadriga; but each city adopted a special and appropriate design for the reverse. Dr Headlam considered this coinage to be dynastic, and not to consist of independent issues of the three cities. Mention was also made of an unpublished copper coin of Syracuse having on the obverse the head of Pan, and on the reverse a syrinx.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Dec. 10.—Sir Edmund G. Loder, V.P., in the chair.—The Secretary read a report on the additions to the Society's menagerie during November.—Mr. R. H. Burne exhibited the feet of a common duiker (*Cephalophus* sp.) with extensive and more or less symmetrical overgrowth of the hoofs. The antelope was shot (wild) by a farmer in stony bush-veldt country about forty miles from Pretoria.—Mr. F. E. Beddard exhibited a skin of the rare marsupial *Dactylopsila palpator* (A. Milne-Edw.), which had been placed in his hands by Dr. C. G. Seligmann.—Some molluscan shells, corals, &c., collected in the Pamban Channel, Southern India, were exhibited on behalf of Mr. C. M. Venkataramanujalu.—Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell exhibited preparations of the intestinal tracts of the Polyprotodont marsupials *Phascogale penicillata*, *Sminthopsis larapinta*, and *S. crassicaudata*, made from specimens lent him by Mr. H. C. Beck, F.Z.S.—Dr. C. W. Andrews, on behalf of Dr. R. Broom, gave an account of a communication, illustrated by lantern-slides, on the origin of the mammal-like reptiles.—Mr. G. A. Boulenier summarized a memoir entitled 'A Revision of the African Silurid Fishes of the Subfamily Clarininae.'—Prof. E. A. Minchin described a new species of Hæmogregarine from the blood of a Himalayan lizard, *Agama tuberculata*, from Kasauli, India.

METEOROLOGICAL.—Dec. 18.—Dr. H. R. Mill, President, in the chair.—Capt. G. H. Ley read a paper on 'The Possibility of a Topography of the Air, based on Balloon Observations with Special Theodolites.' The author gave the results of his own observations in Herefordshire in connexion with the international balloon ascents carried out during the past summer. His method of observing is based on the direct estimation of the range of the balloon from its apparent diameter as measured by cross threads in a telescope; the range being thus determined, an altitude and azimuth are read, and the position of the balloon fixed and plotted on a map. As a rule, over a hill both the vertical and horizontal velocity increase, but the vertical velocity in greater proportion than the horizontal. On the other hand, over the lower ground before and after a hill it appears that a horizontal velocity usually increases faster, or shows a less decrease, than the vertical velocity, especially at the greater heights. The horizontal deflection of the wind due to the ground is much more marked when there is less wind, as in anticyclonic conditions, in cyclonic calms, and at low altitudes. In such conditions the general tendency seems to be for the breezes to blow as far as possible along the contours of the ground. In the case of a valley, the line of least resistance is found along the bottom of the valley; in the case of a ridge, this line is along the contours; and there sometimes appears a breeze along and below the further edge of the ridge, in a direction indicative of the general direction of the superimposed current. Horizontal deflection is often accompanied by a collapse of vertical velocity. The author in conclusion said that the varying topography of the earth's surface produces disturbances in the atmosphere, with effects which are transmitted throughout the lower and middle strata; and that the general effect on a current is to increase its velocity over a hill and decrease it over a valley, and this is especially the case with the vertical velocity. The origin of the phenomena is to be sought in the mechanical effect of obstruction of the lowest stratum, but there are probably various ensuing complications which may accentuate the result. The measurement of these effects can be carried out by a topography of the air made in any locality.—Mr. R. Strachan read a paper on

'Indications of Approaching Frost,' in which he said that for the purpose of making forecasts the dry and wet-bulb thermometers should be noted at or after sunset, or at 9 P.M., and the amount of cloud at the time, and during the forepart of the night if convenient. The dewpoint can be found by reference to hygrometrical tables. When the dewpoint is at or below 32° frost is in evidence, but may be evanescent, due to a rise of temperature, with change of wind, rain, or overcast sky. Even when it is above 32°, if the sky is clear it is possible that the temperature on the ground will go low enough for frost to form. Thus the evening observations should lead to a good idea of what may happen during the night.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Dec. 17.—Sir William Matthews, President, in the chair.—The papers read were 'Keyham Dockyard Extension,' by Sir Whately Eliot, and 'Keyham Dockyard Extension: Temporary Works, and Plant and Appliances used during Construction,' by Mr. G. H. Scott.

HISTORICAL.—Dec. 19.—The Rev. Dr. W. Hunt, President, in the chair.—Dr. N. A. Brisco, of Columbia University, and Miss H. L. Powell were elected Fellows.—York Public Library and the Libraries of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, Canada, and of Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts, were admitted as Subscribing Libraries.—A paper was read by Dr. Charles Cotton on 'The Bardon Papers,' MSS. now in the Egerton Collection at the British Museum, but formerly preserved at Bardon House, Somersetshire, relating to the trial of Mary, Queen of Scots. Prof. Pollard, Mr. Frederic Harrison, Mr. Boyd, Mr. Malden, Mr. Hall, and the President spoke upon the subject of the paper.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

MON. London Institution, 4.—'Three Days of Open-Air Geology.' Lecture I, Prof. G. A. J. Cole. (Christmas Course.)
TUES. Royal Institution, 3.—'Astronomy, Old and New.' Lecture II, Sir David Gill. (Juvenile Lecture.)
WED. London Institution, 4.—'Three Days of Open-Air Geology.' Lecture II, Prof. G. A. J. Cole. (Christmas Course.)
THURS. Royal Institution, 3.—'Astronomy, Old and New.' Lecture III, Sir David Gill. (Juvenile Lecture.)
FRI. London Institution, 4.—'Three Days of Open-Air Geology.' Lecture III, Prof. G. A. J. Cole. (Christmas Course.)
SAT. Royal Institution, 3.—'Astronomy, Old and New.' Lecture IV, Sir David Gill. (Juvenile Lecture.)

Science Gossip.

LORD KELVIN was buried in Westminster Abbey on Monday last, a due tribute to his greatness.

In the United States more attention is paid to the problems of lighting than in this country. The work of the "illuminating engineer," as the specialist in lighting is called, is a recognized branch of engineering. We are now to have an English magazine, edited by Mr. Leon Gaster, with similar objects and aims. The first number of *The Illuminating Engineer* will appear on the first day of the new year, and will be published from The Athenæum Press.

We regret to notice the death on the 20th inst., at his house, 34, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, of Mr. Thomas Annandale, Professor of Clinical Surgery in the University of Edinburgh. He was born in Newcastle on February 2nd, 1838, and graduated at Edinburgh with the highest honours, receiving a gold medal for his thesis on 'The Injuries and Diseases of the Hip Joint.' After becoming well known as a surgeon and holding many lectureships and appointments in the University and the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, he succeeded Lord Lister in 1877 in the Chair of Clinical Surgery, which he held up to his sudden death. His publications included 'Injuries and Diseases of Fingers and Toes,' 'Surgical Appliances and Minor Surgery,' 'Pathology and Operative Treatment of Hip-Joint Disease,' and 'On Diseases of the Breast.' Mr. Annandale was one of the most popular of the Edinburgh medical professors.

WE have also to announce the death, at the age of seventy-five, of Sir Patrick Heron Watson. Elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, in 1855, he became an assistant surgeon during the Crimean War. He later settled in Edinburgh and held the post of surgeon of the Royal Infirmary. He was appointed Hon. Surgeon-in-ordinary to the Queen in Scotland and later to the present King, being knighted in 1903. In 1884 he received the degree of LL.D. from Edinburgh University. He made several valuable contributions to the literature of surgery.

BERLIN lost on Wednesday in last week two of her medical professors. Dr. Adalbert van Tobold at eighty, and Dr. Oscar Lassar, who was only fifty-nine. The former was the leading laryngologist of Germany, and one of the first doctors who were consulted by the Emperor Frederick. He began his career as assistant to Langenbeck, and invented many instruments which advanced the study of his special subject. Dr. Lassar was famous as a dermatologist, an admirable teacher, and a man of great social charm.

MR. ARTHUR MEE, of Llanishen, Cardiff, sends us his 'Heavens at a Glance' for 1908, which, on the two sides of a card of moderate size, gives a handy and compendious mass of astronomical data for the year, including a star-map which can be adapted to the different seasons. The present is the twelfth issue of this convenient little annual guide.

THE sun will be in perigee at Greenwich midnight on the 2nd prox. The moon will be new at 9h. 43m. in the evening (Greenwich time) of the 3rd, and full at 1h. 37m. in the afternoon of the 18th. She will be in perigee on the 4th, and in apogee early in the morning of the 19th. A total eclipse of the sun will take place on the 3rd, the central line of which will pass over the Pacific Ocean, and only reach the west coast of Central America about sunset. Attempts will be made to observe it on a small island called Flint Island, situated in longitude 151° 48' west and latitude 11° 26' south, on the western side of the Marquesas Group, and a short distance to the south-west of Caroline Island, where the eclipse of 1883 was successfully observed. The duration of totality will somewhat exceed four minutes.

AN occultation of δ Geminorum will occur on the evening of the 17th; Greenwich times of disappearance and reappearance, 4h. 19m. and 4h. 34m. respectively. The planet Mercury will be at superior conjunction with the sun on the 14th, and will not be visible until nearly the end of next month in the evening, very near the third-magnitude star, δ Capricorni. Venus will be brilliant during an increasing time each evening, moving from the constellation Capricornus through Aquarius, and entering Pisces at the end of next month; she will be in conjunction with the moon on the 5th. Mars is in the eastern part of Pisces, moving in a north-easterly direction, and visible in the south-west part of the sky until about 10 o'clock in the evening; he will be in conjunction with the moon on the 8th prox. Jupiter is in the eastern part of Cancer, and rises earlier each evening: due south at 2 o'clock in the morning on the 5th prox., and at 1 o'clock on the 19th, and at opposition to the sun on the 29th. Saturn is in Pisces, and at the beginning of next month very near Mars (about two degrees to the south-west of him), but Mars will gradually move further to the north-east; Saturn will be near the moon on the 8th.

WHILST examining photographic plates taken by him at the Moscow Observatory, M. Blajko has detected variability in a

small star in the constellation Cassiopeia, the magnitude of which changes from 10·5 to 11·2; the period appears to be short. The star will be reckoned in a general list as var. 179, 1907, Cassiopeia.

FINE ARTS

The Palaces of Crete and their Builders.
By Angelo Mosso. (Fisher Unwin.)

SIGNOR MOSSO tells us, in his Preface to 'The Palaces of Crete,' that he "desires to collect his impressions of travel, and must explain how it is that he has become an amateur archæologist." His favourite study appears to be ethnology, and while presenting us, most agreeably, with his impressions of modern life in Crete, and of the "monuments" of Minoan times, he is aiming at an ethnological conclusion. His opinion is that "the Aryan people" is a myth of the philologists, and that "the primitive Mediterranean civilization did not originate with the Indo-Germans." He leads up to his inference in a popular way, telling how, as he was studying Etruscan skulls, he met Mr. Duncan MacKenzie, fresh from Crete and the diggings of Mr. Arthur Evans at Cnossus. To Crete went Signor Mosso, and it is impossible not to admire the lively way in which he skips about from theme to theme in his narrative. He describes most fervently his excitement as he examined the finds in the Neolithic stratum of Phæstun. He washed one clod, and lo! it contained a figurine of a woman, an "idol"; another clod was a lump of oxidized iron, a "cultus object, we may be sure, from its having been found near an idol." The deduction is truly "amateur," and a figurine need not be an idol. He determines that some cavities which Mr. Evans takes for baths are really "oratories" (p. 66); and the mark of a woman's finger-tip on an inscribed clay tablet

"interested me in connection with female education, but I thought it might have been the cook who took the damp tablet from her master, and put it in the fire to harden."

However, "the wife of Praetor" (*sic*) was an educated female, for (p. 74) "she sent Bellerophon to Lycia as a bearer of closed writing to her father-in-law...." If Signor Mosso glances at 'Iliad' vi. 159-70, he may reckon the number of errors in his statement and translation.

To turn from writing to seals, Signor Mosso greatly puzzled us; not that *he* is to blame. In the 'Annual of the British School at Athens' (xii. 240-41, 1905-6) Mr. Mackenzie publishes, from "the excellent original drawings by Signor Stefani, a number of clay seal-impressions found by the Italian mission at Hagia Triada. On one of these seals (fig. 2) we see a woman wearing a small 'pigtail,' naked above the waist, and clad below in a baggy 'loincloth skirt.' Behind her is a man, also with a pigtail. He wears a corslet incised with the chevron pattern, like that of the pillars from the Treasury of Atreus in the British

Museum. Under the corslet is a broad band of metal (the Homeric *zoster* or *zoma*?), and below that is a short stiff apron, apparently of strips of metal; perhaps it is of leather plated with bronze. Beneath this a baggy skirt descends to the knees. Mr. Mackenzie, who is describing the evolution of Minoan costume out of the primæval *lincloth*, merely says that the man "has below his armour a loincloth skirt like that of his female companion." Now, as is well known, Reichel, Mr. Leaf, and Mr. Murray in his 'Rise of the Greek Epic,' hold that the "Mycenæans" had no body armour, but merely the great shield; and that the Homeric references to body armour of bronze were introduced in the eighth or seventh century—an opinion opposed by Mr. Arthur Evans and others. The seal, as drawn by Signor Stefani, destroys Reichel's theory. But Signor Mosso gives a photograph of the seal. It is so worn that the woman's head and legs are broken off; so are the head and legs of the man, and there is no trace of the chevron ornament on his corslet. Signor Mosso calls him "a warrior with cuirass and shield." But what he takes for a shield must be the baggy skirt: no mortal would buckle on his corslet and *mitré*, or ribbed apron, over his shield! Meanwhile, in Signor Stefani's drawing are the heads, legs, and ornament of the cuirass fanciful additions? or did he draw from another and unbroken impression of the seal? His drawing shows a kind of colonnade behind the man; the photograph has nothing of the kind, and no room for it. In any case, the seal, even as photographed, appears to us fatal to the Reichelian theory that Mycenæans had no body armour, and that the mentions of cuirasses and the other articles of armour in Homer are late additions by Ionian minstrels.

The difficulty caused by the differences between Signor Stefani's drawing and the photograph published by Signor Mosso is explained in *Monumenti Antichi*, vol. xiii. (1904). Many examples of the clay seal were found, and by comparing and selecting, Signor Stefani made his drawing. The chevron pattern (of narrow plates of metal?) really exists.

Signor Mosso's photographs of a vase found by Prof. Halbherr, showing, in relief, an officer wearing "putties" and a private in boots standing at attention, are most interesting and novel. He next wanders to Gortyna and the famous inscription and the landscape, and then to Cnossus, which we know already. He says: "In all the Homeric poems there is no mention of a lock or a key (p. 156). He forgets 'Odyssey' xxi. 6, 46. His explanation of a scene on the Vaphio cups, that it represents gymnasts in a perilous sport with bulls, and that one of the performers is a woman seems plausible. He takes the net in which a bull is entangled as an obstacle, erected like a hurdle, or anything obstructive in an "obstacle race"; but see 'Iliad,' xiii. 571-72:—

ησπαῖρ, ὡς ὅτε βοῦς, τόντ' οὐρεσι βονκόλοι
ἄνδρες

ιλλάσιν οὐκ ἔθελοντα βίη δῆσαντες ἄγουσιν

It is an error to say that "there is only some slight allusion to Crete in the Homeric poems." Dr. Drerup "suggests that the origin of the 'Odyssey' is to be sought for in Crete" (Burrows, 'Discoveries in Crete,' pp. 207-8); and the poet even ventures into Cretan ethnology. Why Lycians are called "Lici" is not apparent; the translator ought to know better.

Signor Mosso thinks it probable that "the Indo-Germans traced descent in the female line." That must have been very long ago, and Mr. Murray maintains that the Aryans did not, but the pre-Hellenic peoples did, and were exogamous ('Rise of the Greek Epic,' pp. 45, 74, 75). We know nothing about the matter, and matrilinear exogamous peoples, like the Dieri and Euahlayi, do not worship goddesses; on this worship the theory of the "matrilinealism" of the Minoans is mainly based. "Game is not spoken of in Homer" (p. 293). What next!

When Signor Mosso arrives at ethnology, he first demolishes "the Aryan race," a term against which, some may remember, Max Müller protested. Signor Mosso believes in "a primitive Mediterranean stock," of which the Germans were the northern outposts. They grew tall and fair; the Minoans remained short, and their hair was black. Probably Signor Mosso will deal with this difficult topic in a later work. Does he think that the Achæans were of the Mediterranean stock, that they went north, that fair hair became common among them, and that they then migrated to the south, and occupied pre-Hellenic Mycenæ and Tiryns? When the Cretan inscriptions are translated, if ever, we shall know the language of the people of Minos. Meanwhile we are much in the dark, though many place-names are regarded, with words in *nthos*, as "non-Aryan," and Mr. MacKenzie, in the work already cited, makes a good case for the North African origin of Minoan civilization.

Signor Mosso can scarcely be said to have Homer at his finger-ends, but we have seen no other book on the ancient civilization of the Aegean which is so readable and vivacious. The sketches of landscape and of rural life in Crete and at Mycenæ are most sympathetic; the illustrations are good, and many are new, at least to us. In short, if the general reader takes up the volume, he may feel the exciting interest of the subject, and go on to more precise and technical studies. The index is a curiosity. Under 'Homer,' so often mentioned, we find one reference—"Homer untrustworthy, 287." On looking at p. 287 we read:—

"The Homeric poems are about as trustworthy sources for information on institutions, daily life, and dress as the Chansons de Geste and the Romances of the Round Table."

Homer is, we think, trustworthy for the institutions, life, and dress of his own

age; and so, for military life, are the *Chansons de Geste*. The use of iron for tools, bronze for weapons, as in Homer, is attested by Mr. Macalister's excavations at Gezer ('Palestine Exploration Fund,' p. 199, 1903). Neither Homer nor the *Chansons* pretend to describe accurately the ways of "Late Minoan II," or of the age of Charlemagne. In both epics, French and Achaean, there is exaggeration of heroic feats; but that is of no importance. The translation is excellent.

The Lakes of Northern Italy. By Richard Bagot. (Methuen & Co.)—This is not an entirely new book, for in it is reproduced the letterpress which, in 'The Italian Lakes,' published by Messrs. Black, accompanied Miss Ella Du Cane's pictures of Maggiore, Como, Lugano, and Orta. But neither is it a mere reprint: it contains much new matter, including four chapters on Garda—a lake which was left unnoticed in the earlier work—while the old has been revised and largely added to. Mr. Bagot has combined his materials with skill, and the result is a pleasant volume of convenient size, which may be commended to travellers desirous of learning, without undue effort, something of the past history of the Italian lake district. Others, to whom the name of that district suggests nothing but a series of incomparable "views," may be surprised to discover how numerous are the historical associations which attach to it. Como, boasting both a classical and a mediæval story of great interest, is the most important of the North Italian lakes from this point of view, and we are not disposed to quarrel with our author for the large amount of his limited space which he has assigned to Larian annals. He is thoroughly acquainted with the country of which he writes, and though we should be inclined to dispute some of his awards in the matter of comparative beauty, we readily admit that these are in every case based upon intimate knowledge.

Mr. Bagot is at his best in his purely historical chapters, such as that which successfully deals with the career of that disreputable hero and curious product of the Renaissance, Il Medeghino. This chapter contains a curious slip, by which the Visconti are made to reign in Milan after the Sforza. He is not a penetrating art-critic; no ordinary careful observer, looking at Tomaso Rodario's acknowledged work in Como Cathedral, could for an instant credit him with the beautiful St. Sebastian which stands beside it—a figure that Donatello himself might have been proud to sign. Some of Mr. Bagot's remarks on Luini's great 'Crucifixion' at Lugano read strangely, and he omits all mention of the remarkable Giottesque frescoes in Sant' Abbondio.

From Mr. Bagot we expect good writing, and our expectations are fulfilled: he is lucid, simple, and occasionally witty. Our grateful recognition of these qualities, rare in a book of the kind under notice, increases our regret that he should have permitted himself, in treating of things religious and political, an acrid tone which detracts considerably from its charm as a travelling-companion. Neither in Church nor State in Italy can Mr. Bagot find any good. His pessimistic views might have found fitting place in a controversial pamphlet or a serious magazine; but he ought to know that bitter gibes at the Roman Church and cynical mockery of the *Risorgimento* and its champions are scarcely in keeping with what

should be the genial atmosphere of a holiday volume.

Botticelli. By Henry Bryan Binns. (T. C. & E. C. Jack.)—The best thing we can say of this latest volume of "Masterpieces in Colour" is that several of the plates do not look as if they had had the advantage of "modern methods of colour printing." We have on previous occasions deprecated the practice of publishing in books little colour prints a few inches square, pretending to be facsimiles of large decorative paintings. That such work should be regarded as artistic argues a public with little instinct in such matters. We have pleasure, therefore, in recording that several of these illustrations—"The Birth of Venus," the 'Primavera,' 'The Annunciation,' for example—are simply decent tinted plates of these works to which no one need object. Some of the 'Tondi' are more highly coloured and less satisfactory, but on the whole Botticelli emerges from a trying ordeal better than might have been expected. The letterpress within its slender bounds is excellent. Sympathetic, even enthusiastic, Mr. Binns yet keeps the power of just discernment which distinguishes the critic from the blind idolater.

THE ALPINE CLUB JUBILEE EXHIBITION.

AT this show of Alpine paintings by past and present members of the Club, art at its highest point of development is hardly to be looked for, but rather unsophisticated work which yet speaks of its maker's keen interest in his subject-matter. One thinks of the mountaineer in the rarefied air of the heights setting down vivid impressions with clean and bare directness, and the hard scientific accuracy which makes no concessions to pictorial conventions.

These expectations are not entirely disappointed. The present exhibition does not include any work by Turner, so the overpowering effect that he has sometimes had on other work exhibited in this gallery is avoided. The best work shown is that by men who to all appearance are very capable amateurs. Such is the drawing of the *Matterhorn from the Théodule*, by Mr. J. W. Garrett Smith, which is impressive in its hard, colourless delineation, free from any extraneous attractiveness; such also is J. Ruskin's *Mer de Glace*, not a very beautiful drawing, but a most careful literal description of frozen torrent-form. In the *Chamonix Aiguilles*, on the other hand, Ruskin is less the enthusiast for the facts of mountain form, and more the artist: it is a prettier drawing than the other, but commands not quite the same respect. The *Himalayan Peaks*, by Mr. Alfred Williams, deals with a fine subject. The conception is grandiose, but the corrupting influence of something that to the lay mind may stand for professional accomplishment has led the painter to interpose a fuzzy, would-be-poetic elaboration between us and the simple statement that the theme required. *The Riders of the Avalanche* suggests that perhaps Mr. McCormick is the corrupting influence. The air of the peaks should breed too severe a taste for this sort of thing, and it is the more inexcusable because Mr. McCormick elsewhere shows, as in his sketch No. 103, that he is not incapable of straightforward, vigorous execution. The *Matterhorn from the Riffel See* brings us back to the amateur of mountain scenery, with a dead eye for facts, not to be diverted from their pursuit by shallow technical cleverness. Difficulties are faced, as they should be, hardly; and for its concise,

dry delineation such work will always have a value, even a beauty of its own.

The sole pictures here that give us in the cult of beauty an interest as great as these others offer by their pursuit of fact are those of G. F. Watts, and, truth to tell, it is only in *Ararat* and the stronger, though more realistic little picture *In Asia Minor from Boudroam* that he exhibits any high degree of power. The latter picture has not the serenity and decorative quality of 'Ararat,' but it is eloquent of the perpetual menace of mountains by the sea—shows them as the treacherous breeders of those sudden storms which drop from nowhere on a perfect day.

SALE.

THERE was nothing remarkable in the sale at Christie's last Saturday, the best price obtained being for J. A. van Ravestyn's Portrait of a Lady, in rich black and gold dress, 472*l.* Other pictures: J. Ruysdael, A Rocky River Scene, 168*l.* Hogarth, Mrs. Garrick, in pink dress with lace fichu and trimmings, and straw hat, holding some flowers, 131*l.* German School, Albert Dürer, in brown and white costume, 199*l.*

Fine-Art Gossip.

THE January issue of *The Reliquary*—the first number under the full control of the new editor—will contain, *inter alia*, fully illustrated papers on 'The Treasury of St. Anthony at Padua,' 'Bramshill Tapestry,' 'The Ancient Capital of Finland,' 'A Pre-Conquest Cross at Rolleston,' 'Tattooing of Aboriginal Tribes in India,' 'Some Essex Brasses,' and 'Athos and its Seal.' A new feature will be lists of archaeological and kindred books published in various continental countries during the last three months.

SOME of our readers may be glad to hear of *Christian Art*, a new illustrated monthly magazine published in America by Mr. R. G. Badger of Boston, and devoted to current church-building, the allied ecclesiastical arts, and Christian archaeology. Mr. R. A. Cram of Boston is the editor-in-chief, and the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield of Barkham Rectory, Berkshire, the associate-editor for Great Britain and Ireland. Notes on current work and literary articles are invited, and all communications and inquiries relating to the magazine should be addressed to Mr. Ditchfield.

THE DUBLIN MUNICIPAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART will be opened to the public early in the year. An arrangement has been made by which four members of the Modern Art Gallery Committee, two members of the Board of the National Gallery, and two members of the Royal Hibernian Academy will act as a committee of management with the Public Libraries Committee, representing the Corporation of Dublin, in administering the new gallery. The pictures and sculpture are now being arranged in the temporary building by the Hon. Director, Mr. Hugh P. Lane.

THE identity of the young lady in the Russell pastel which realized such a high figure in Paris last week has now been revealed. It represents Mrs. Mark Currie, and was purchased for the late Léon Gauchez at Christie's on April 27th, 1901, for 1,550 guineas. The portrait of the same lady painted by Romney in the same year—1789—is now in the National Gallery.

THE LOUVRE acquired by sale in Paris last week several important works, notably a fine Corot, 'Le Beffroi de Douai,' which

has been frequently exhibited, and seven drawings by the same artist; and, through the Société des Amis du Louvre, two drawings by Delacroix. The Copenhagen Museum also acquired at the same sale two pictures and a drawing by Corot.

THE death is announced from Paris of Georges Bottini, whose "types parisiens" were each year a feature of the Salon of the Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts. Many of his decorative compositions are to be found in Paris cafés.

MUSIC

Musical Gossip.

ON January 6th Max Bruch will celebrate the seventieth anniversary of his birth. He will spend the day in Cologne, his native city, and on the following day take part in a Gürzenich Concert.

THE first volume of the Breitkopf & Härtel complete edition of the works of Joseph Haydn has just been issued.

THE fourth volume will shortly appear of 'Ludwig van Beethoven's Leben,' of which the late Alexander Wheelock Thayer published three volumes, translated from the original English by the late Dr. Hermann Deiters, who also revised the first volume after Thayer's death. This fourth volume will be edited by Dr. Hugo Riemann, and will be based on work already prepared by Dr. Deiters and material collected by him. It will contain a preface, an index, corrections, and supplements. The revision of Thayer's second and third volumes will also be undertaken by Dr. Riemann, and he expects to issue the fifth and concluding volume in the course of a year.

BEFORE Gustav Mahler left Vienna for New York, several friends presented him as a farewell gift with an original letter written by Beethoven to Friedrich Meyer, who impersonated Pizarro at the revival of 'Fidelio' in 1806, written before the last performance on April 10th in that year. It is stated in the *Algemeine Musik Zeitung* of the 20th inst., in a communication apparently from Vienna, giving the contents of the letter, that it has not, to the best of the writer's belief, hitherto been published. But it appeared in the Leipsic *Alg. Musik Zeitung* in 1863, in Thayer's 'Beethoven,' vol. ii., and in the new edition of Beethoven's letters edited by Dr. A. C. Kalischer. The text now given differs, however, slightly from previous readings, so that it is probably the most correct version. Dr. Kalischer published it from a copy in O. Jahn's Beethoven-Nachlass in the Berlin Royal Library.

THE news comes from St. Petersburg that Rimsky-Korsakoff has completed a new opera, 'Zolotoi Pietranchok,' and that it will be produced, under the composer's direction this season at the Imperial Opera.

AN appointment worthy of record here is that of Dr. Henry Coward to the conductorship of the Glasgow Choral Union. The post has become vacant through Mr. Joseph Bradley (who had held it for twenty years) having accepted the conductorship of the Sydney Philharmonic Society. Dr. Coward's reputation as chorus-master of the Sheffield, Leeds, and Huddersfield Musical Festivals is almost worldwide. He will take up his duties at Glasgow in March, when he will conduct the spring rehearsals.

FRANÇOIS MARMONTEL (1816-98) in his day was one of the most distinguished professors of the pianoforte at the Paris

Conservatoire. His son Antonin, who died last July, has bequeathed to the Louvre four portraits: Gluck, by Greuze; Jean François Marmontel, by Roslin; Chopin, by Delacroix; and Stephen Heller, by Ricard. The Marmontel mentioned (1723-1799) was probably some ancestor. Of the Chopin portrait Prof. Niecks, in his life of Frederick Chopin, states that Antonin Marmontel, in a letter to him describes that picture as "reproducing the great artist in the last period of his life, when he was about to succumb to his chest disease." Marmontel also bequeathed, but to the Conservatoire, a portrait by Bonnat, and a bust by Barrias, of his father.

THE NORA CLENCH STRING QUARTET, which has appeared in Germany with great success during the past few months, gave its first recital at the Royal Dublin Society last week. The programme included works by Debussy, Beethoven, and Haydn.

PERFORMANCES NEXT WEEK.

SUN.	Concert, 3.30, Albert Hall.
—	Sunday Society Concert, 3.30, Queen's Hall.
—	Sunday Lecture Concert, 3, Queen's Hall.
MON.—SAT.	Carl Rosa Opera Company, 8, Covent Garden. (Wednesday and Saturday, Matinées, 2.)
WED.	New Year's Concert, 3, Queen's Hall.
—	Royal Choral Society, 8, Albert Hall.
SAT.	Hamburg Sibelius Concert, 3, Queen's Hall.
—	London Ballad Concert, 8, Albert Hall.

DRAMA

THE WEEK.

ENGLISH DRAMA SOCIETY.—*The Nativity Plays from the Chester Mysteries.*

INTERESTING rather from their historical significance and their mediaeval blend of quaintness and piety than from any specific merit of their own are the Chester Plays, or at least the Nativity section of them, which, along with 'The Slaying of the Innocents,' Mr. Nugent Monck and the English Drama Society revived just before Christmas at University College, Gower Street. These mysteries, of which there are twenty-four in all, date from 1328, and are supposed to be the work of a monk of Chester Abbey—one Don Randall Higginet. The literary vehicle employed by their author is an uncouth metre in varying lengths—lines of seven and eight syllables prevailing—and it cannot be called much else than doggerel. The treatment is so bald and artless that it can scarcely be deemed to have caught the devotional spirit; it is, in fact, only as a curiosity of the Middle Ages, as a relic of one of the kinds of popular entertainment from which our drama is derived, that these "plays" are in any way impressive. They are mysteries which lack the element of the mysterious—representations of Biblical stories which are devoid of the poetry and vision of the sacred narrative. The best of the four plays given by the Society was certainly that of the 'The Three Kings,' which showed the Wise Men from the East interviewing Herod. This in a certain crude, grotesque way was real drama, or a real dramatic interlude. Of the anonymous interpreters, the actor who played the Expositor delivered his rhetoric fervently; the exponent of the Virgin made a sympathetic appeal; and the impersonator of Herod was picturesque and eloquent, if a little melodramatic.

FRANÇOIS MARMONTEL (1816-98) in his day was one of the most distinguished professors of the pianoforte at the Paris

THE THEATRE OF IRELAND.

"A. E." is known in Ireland, and out of it, as a poet, and mystic, and as a painter whose landscapes, informed by a fine feeling for design, are the expression of a temperament keenly alive to the magic of the external world. This painter-poet has chosen for his only play the fascinating story of Deirdre, the tragic heroine of the Red Branch cycle. 'The Flight, Return, and Death of Deirdre and the Sons of Usna,' as it is called in the manuscripts, is one of 'The Three Sorrows of Story-telling.' Twenty years ago Dr. Douglas Hyde turned this story into English iambics, and won the Vice-Chancellor's prize in Trinity College, Dublin; it has also formed the subject of a verse-play by Mr. W. B. Yeats.

A. E. has followed the traditional version of the tale with but little variation. Each act of his 'Deirdre' presents a complete picture: in the first we have the awakening of Deirdre; in the second the recall to Erin; in the third the death of the lovers. At the opening of the play we see the beautiful girl, Deirdre of the prophecies, in a lonely dun (a dun was a fortress-house in those days) with her foster-mother, the Druidess Lavarcam. She has been brought up by the command of Conchobar, the Ard-Righ, far from the Red Branch heroes, to avert the fulfilment of the doom which was pronounced at her birth. But Deirdre has dreamt of the heroes, and when Naisi, the Red Branch knight, comes to her, love enters her heart, and the fulfilment of the doom has begun. Defying the King's command and the warnings of Lavarcam, the lovers fly to Alba, and the curtain falls on Conchobar's wrath as he learns of the carrying-off of Deirdre and the breaking of the law.

In the second act Deirdre reluctantly says farewell to the friendly stranger-land of Alba, where she and Naisi have lived and loved remote from the vengeance of Conchobar. She yields—not without many prayers—to the entreaties of Naisi, who has begun to long for the faces of his friends and the flashing of spears, and to the protestations of Fergus, who brings a message of reconciliation from the Ard-Righ.

In the third act Conchobar, "the stony king with the implacable eyes," learns that he has been deceived by Lavarcam, who, in her desire for Deirdre's return, has told him that the loveliness of Deirdre has passed. He learns instead that "the beauty of Deirdre is a wonder to the gazers in the streets, for she moves among them like one of the Shee, whiter than ivory, with long hair of gold, and her eyes, like the blue flame of twilight, make mystery in their hearts." In his wrath Conchobar exclaims, "Breakers of the law and makers of lies, you shall all perish together!" and the curtain falls on the death of Deirdre and Naisi.

In one particular A. E. has departed somewhat from the traditional version of the story. He has endued the Ard-Righ Conchobar with a dignity and singleness of purpose which the other writers who have dealt with this theme have not seen in him. Conchobar, in A. E.'s play, is no jealous lover, nor is his revenge a mean or personal one. He is a majestic figure, an idealist, the incarnation of the spirit of law. His words in the first act give the key-note to his dream:

"Through the ancient traditions of Eri, which the bards have woven into song, I have seen the shining law enter men's minds and subdue the lawless into love of justice. A great tradition is shaping a heroic race. The gods who fought at Moytura are descending and dwelling in the hearts of the Red Branch, and deeds will be done in our

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